

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILLYLEAGH



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ANNUAL REPORT

Sept 2017 – June 2018

‘Learning Today for a better Tomorrow’

Chairpersons's Report 2017/18

Introduction

Each school is required to give parents an annual report so they will continue to know what is happening and to be involved in the education of their child.

We, on the Board of Governors, are delighted to take this opportunity to report to you on the work of our outstanding school. We know you will read it with interest and we thank the Principal for her assistance in preparing this report. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued interest.

The 2017/18 year can be viewed as a time of continual progress in St. Mary's Primary School. The continual hard work and dedication of the staff and Governors to maintain the high level of capacity for sustained improvement continues as St. Mary's goes from strength to strength.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, and I'm sure our school community, I would like to thank the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Education Authority (EA) for the great support they continue to provide to St Mary's Primary School.

St. Mary's promotes a strong catholic ethos as is demonstrated in our welcoming, inclusive and mutually respectful value system. The school caters for a wide variety of needs by providing a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum within a supportive, caring and exciting environment. This strong ethos was recognised and celebrated when St.Mary's was awarded joint first place in the Derrytrasnhna Award presented by the DENI at Stormont. St. Mary's PS were nominated by St.Vincent de Paul for the staff within the school going above and beyond to support a family in need. This was an immensely proud moment for all associated with St. Mary's.

It is pleasing to see how St. Mary's continues to reach out to the wider community and in particular with the school's continuing links with the local Primary and Post-Primary schools.

The school's website, facebook and twitter accounts continue to be excellent assets in communicating with parents and showcasing the strong work ethic which permeates all aspects of school life.

The Board of Governors deeply appreciates the work of the Friend's of St Mary's in their fund raising efforts and their support and encouragement for the school. The Board would like to thank all parents for their support for St. Mary's Primary school.

The Board of Governors recognises the following achievements and highlights over the school year:

- The development of Action Plans that continue to address the areas for improvement in the School Development Plan (SDP) and raise standards.
- The Continuation of a Learning Support teacher to improve Literacy and Numeracy standards.
- The development of Numeracy and Literacy with particular focus on Measures and Spelling.
- Staff Development in Numeracy, Literacy, SEN, ICT & Global Learning/STEM.
- Review and updating of key policies and procedures.
- Continuation of the Reading Partnership Scheme.
- Development of the Extended Schools Programme.
- Awards achieved in the Sustran's Programme for staying active and being healthy.
- The continual development of the Digital Leader programme.
- The emphasis placed on Musical Tuition.
- The promotion of the Daily Mile.
- Participation in The Roots of Empathy Programme.
- Further development of the school website, twitter and Facebook.
- The investment in Play Based Learning Resources.
- The investment in ICT and use of ipads to promote High Quality Teaching and Learning.
- The investment in new Reading Material for Key Stage 1 & 2.
- Painting of classrooms.
- Purchasing of classroom furniture.

Should parents require any further information about the school's Annual Report or wish to raise issues about its content, they should discuss this with the Principal. If parents wish to raise a matter at Board of Governor level, they should do so following the agreed procedures.

Mrs C Clark

Chairperson of the Board of Governors

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. The Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School consists of nine voting members plus the Principal of the School who is a non-voting member.

Rev.Father B Smyth	Trustee Representative
Mr B Fitzpatrick	Trustee Representative
Miss M Morrow	Trustee Representative
Mr J P Magee	Trustee Representative
Mrs R Bucknall	Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) Representative
Mrs C Clark	Board Representative Chairperson
Mrs A Polland	Board Representative
Mrs M O' Prey	Parent Representative
Mrs O Hagan	Teacher Representative
Mrs D Miller	Principal Secretary to Board of Governors

The Board of Governors was responsible for the implementation of the curriculum, for making recommendations for the appointment of staff, pupil admissions, discipline, school premises and finance. Governors attend regular meetings of the School's Governing Body – at least one per term – and any extra, special meetings that might be required to deal with urgent business as it arises. They show an interest in all school activities and keep themselves informed about education in general. Governors are also invited to attend the necessary training provided by the Education Authority.

Elected representatives hold office for four years. These elections were in accordance with the CCMS, Scheme of Management for Catholic Maintained Schools.

The day-to-day running of the school has been delegated to the Principal of the school.

A School Management Team consisting of the Principal and Vice-Principal, provided a framework for the management of the school. One other staff member has additional points of responsibility.

Subject Co-ordinators had specific responsibilities relating to curricular areas and ensured that the curriculum was delivered to your child in as meaningful a context as possible, while at the same time attending to pastoral, administrative and managerial duties. These responsibilities were continually reviewed in light of changing circumstances.

These organisational structures within the school strengthen the school's ability to manage changes arising from Government Policy and to respond appropriately to them.

THE CURRICULUM

When we speak of the Curriculum at St. Mary's we are referring to the learning experiences afforded to each child within the school. These learning experiences include those planned by the staff and those gained from our school ethos and environment.

We recognise the uniqueness of each individual child and plan to provide for his/her needs accordingly.

The Primary phase comprises three areas namely:

- Foundation Stage: Primary One and Two
- Key stage 1: Primary Three and Four
- Key stage 2: Primary Five, Six and Seven

The curriculum covers six areas of study:

Language and Literacy (Including Talking & Listening, Reading & Writing)

Mathematics & Numeracy

The Arts (Including Art & Design, Drama & Music)

The World Around Us (WAU)

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Physical Education

Religious Education is taught as a separate subject although the opportunities for cross curricular work are many and varied especially in relation to the Arts, The World Around Us, PDMU and Literacy.

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contacts across all areas of the curriculum, children in St. Mary's progressively develop.

Cross-Curricular skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

- Thinking, Problem – Solving and Decision-Making
- Self Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative

All schools are legally required to formulate a SDP which details the schools priorities for a three year period. The school year 2017/18 was the final year of the implementation of this plan.

Detailed Action Plans, required to bring about improvement and raise standards within the school curriculum and provision were drawn up and ratified by Governors. These Action Plans determined the extensive curriculum development programme and staff training for the year ahead.

LITERACY & NUMERACY

The literacy focus for the 2017/18 school year was to develop active learning strategies and continue to develop phonics and spellings. In numeracy the focus was to develop the Measures strand and to continue to develop word problems and associated strategies.

A comprehensive training programme for staff on the development of Active Learning, Phonics/Spellings and Measures was rolled out.

Alongside implementing the strategies and gathering evidence, staff also engaged in training on a variety of iPad apps, to support and enhance the teaching and learning in Literacy and Numeracy.

A yearly overview and half term plans for Literacy and Numeracy have been further refined to appropriately meet the variety of needs within the composite classes. Detailed fortnightly planning for both literacy and numeracy have been implemented and rigorously monitored.

Literacy and Numeracy parent workshops were provided and a reduction in underachievement in both literacy and numeracy has been achieved.

We celebrated Roald Dahl day in September. The children came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. The Scholastic Book Fair took place in October 2018 and we managed to raise a magnificent £753.00. World Book Day was celebrated in March 2018. This year saw the 2nd Year of the St. Mary's Speech Festival on 23rd May. Children from P1-P7 were provided with a range of poems and had to deliver them to the adjudicator Mrs Fitzpatrick. Parents were invited to attend and it was a very successful event. The children participated with enthusiasm and were truly a credit to their parents and their school.

ICT

This year saw St Mary's achieve its first ICT award 'Digital Schools', we have been asked to become a mentor school. This was in recognition of how ICT is embedded into every-day life at St Mary's. The validator's report highlighted that all policies reflected current recommendations from the DENI, that planning for ICT across the curriculum could be clearly identified by the colour purple. Pupils experience a wide range of digital devices and are very capable of sharing their skill with other schools. The school

completed its second-year programme of Digital Leaders and the current Digital Leaders spoke positively about their experience.

The SeeSaw assessment observation tool was introduced to the foundation stage and feedback from parents is very positive.

All pupils completed CCEA suggested tasks related to Music and Sound and a line of progression was created for the use of the app garage band. The pupils skills on the use of this app were audited and all pupils reported enjoying the using of this app. Teachers and staff refreshed their knowledge of the apps introduced over the past two years that had been changed after the ios-11 update.

Through the support of Friends of St Mary's we were fortunate enough to receive 5 additional iPad's by a successful grant application with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). We held our first Sponsored Digital Device Day in March and this was enjoyed by all children. Throughout the year the children participated in coding week and internet safety day. Children in P5 & 6 completed a NewsReel project with 4 other schools on NewsDesk. An online safety team was created and staff began the online 360degree safety check. The co-ordinator and vice principal attended the C2K conference at St Mary's University on 28th February 2018. Parents of KS2 children were invited to a internet safety talk in St Patrick's Grammar, Downpatrick 2nd May.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS' PROVISION

Provision for pupils with learning needs was on-going in 2017-18. Children with learning difficulties were identified at an early stage and were supported by our Learning Support Teacher and Classroom Assistants. This support involved both withdrawal in small or individual group teaching and differentiated activities within the classroom. Pupils with learning needs were identified, assessed and an individual or group plan was drawn up with the teacher and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) to work with these children to meet their needs. These learning needs included the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Social Emotional and Behaviour issues. We continued to use child friendly Individual Education Plan's (IEP) to ensure pupil input to targets.

During the year the school consulted with the Educational Psychologist regarding 6 children's learning and social and emotional needs. 2 were assessed using the psychology time allocated by EA.

These children have been given agreed IEP's which helped to address their needs. At all stages of arrangements for children with special educational needs, parents were kept informed of what was being done and were closely involved in any decisions relating to the educational provision for their children. 1 of these children received a diagnosis of Specific Literacy Difficulties. The other child is still under going assessments.

At the end of June 2018 we had 34 children on the special needs register. Of the children on the register 7 children have a Statement of Educational Needs. 5 of these children have additional adult assistance in

school to help them access the curriculum. The needs of these children included Social Emotional and Behavioural issues, children with ASD, children diagnosed with ADD/ADHD, children with SpLD, children with cognitive and learning difficulties and those who have severe medical needs. The work carried out in learning support is in conjunction with and additional to the work carried out in class and is always driven by the needs of the child as laid out in their IEP. Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) were maintained by the EA. The medical and educational arrangements for these children were reviewed between January and March and any further action was agreed.

The EA Literacy Support Services provided 'in class support' strategies for children with SpLD. Teachers attended Read Write training provided by EA Literacy Support in May 2018. Two classroom assistants attended Dyslexia training provided by EA Literacy Services. Teachers continue to use Dyslexia Checklist to identify children showing concerns. Application for BDA Quality Mark for Dyslexia is ongoing. The school purchased a Dyslexia Screening Tool and the Nessy Reading and Writing Programme. We celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Day. A group of children participated in the Nessy programme. This is ongoing.

The progress of all children who were in receipt of additional help either on a long-term or short-term basis was reviewed by the class teacher in consultation with the child's parents at regular intervals. The school regards this close liaison as most necessary if progress is to be made with individual children. In addition, one of our classroom assistants has been providing the Reading Partnership Programme to children over an intense ten week period to support and extend reading.

All other children's needs are met within the classroom and work is differentiated according to their individual needs.

The remaining modules in the SEN/CPD Literacy Project were disseminated through the online training material. This gives the whole school a greater understanding of children with specific literacy difficulties.

We participated in an SEN Survey conducted by ETI regarding Early Intervention of SEN in mainstream.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS IN ST MARY'S.

This year the P4/5 children were introduced to the new Grow in Love Religious programme while the children from P6-P7 followed the Alive O and Education for Love programmes.

Father Brendan Smyth our school chaplain and Father Sean Rogan regularly visited school to support and promote the development of our faith for pupils, parents and staff.

Parents and grandparents attended a variety of class and whole school assemblies and prayer services.

The beginning of year school Mass was celebrated on 28th September.

All P4-7 children received the sacrament of reconciliation on 18th December and 22nd March for Christmas and Easter respectively.

The Service of Enrolment & Commitment was held in St. Mary's Primary School on 24th January and was well attended by parents.

The P7 children took part in the Service of Light on 26th February.

The P3 children received the Sacrament of First Penance on 21st March in St.Mary's Church.

The children from P4/5 re- enacted the Passion of Christ in a reverent and moving pageant in the school hall on the 27th March

Primary 7 children from the school received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 18th May in St Mary's Church.

First Holy Communion Day was celebrated on Saturday 12th May in St. Mary's Church and was another very special occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

The Primary 7 children lead the end of year Mass, in a truly memorable occasion on Thursday 21st June to celebrate their journey through St Mary's PS.

As always our school choir sang at each of these very special occasions to make it a whole school celebration.

CHARITIES

During the year St.Mary's supported, St.Vincent de Paul, Macmillian Cancer, Action Cancer and Trocaire. The P7 class also made two donations to local families who were fund raising for Meningitis Awareness and Cystic Fibrosis. This money was raised through the Junior Entrepreneur Programme 2018.

THE WORLD AROUND US

WAU planning was reviewed and planning developed over the course of the year. The variation in topics has ensured continuity and progression through-out the school. The WAU topic overview planner and thematic planners have been created and used by all teachers. There is also some evidence of science experiments being incorporated into the planners. The children went on educational visits and invited guests visited school to support and enhance the learning through WAU.

THE ARTS (MUSIC & DRAMA)

Children in St.Mary's were involved in music and drama activities through a range of productions last year. For our Christmas concerts P1-4 were brilliant in their musical play Penguin Pete. The P4's- P7 production of Aladdin Trouble demonstrated a wealth of talent within the school. Children from P1 to 7 were involved in singing and performing at class assemblies over the course of the year.

Every child once again took part in our Grandparents day celebration at the end of January.

Our School Choir were involved in many musical events and various liturgical occasions including our School Mass, Carol singing in Asda, Christmas lights festivities in Killyleagh, Catholic Schools' Week, our Open Day, First Confession and First Holy Communion.

Our school year closed with the P7 production of Reach for the Stars. It was a fabulous show and the children were truly amazing!

HEALTH EDUCATION

The importance of healthy lifestyles and healthy choices continues to be a priority focus within the school. All classes implement the preventative curriculum through their Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) programme.

The Daily Mile initiative continues to be implemented fully in St. Mary's Primary school. This programme has had a positive affect on both physical health but also on pupil well being.

Our Breakfast Club ran each morning to provide a healthy start to the day. This was well attended with approximately 50 children attending each week.

Children were encouraged to drink water during the school day and parents supported guidance on providing no fizzy or sugary drinks.

The whole school participated in the Sustran initiative on 19th April.

Our Extended School activities encouraged and promoted healthy lifestyles.

A NSPCC assembly and Action Cancer workshop further highlighted the importance of health.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

All staff engaged in the analysis of data, to identify low achievement, possible underachievement and to highlight children who were performing above their expected attainment.

Using this data staff were then guided through the task of setting realistic yet challenging targets.

PTM and PTE Standardised assessment in the areas of Mathematics and English were carried out from P3 to P7 in May 2017. All children from P2-P7 completed Standardised Spelling Test and Reading Tests. In addition a Cognitive Assessment Tool (CAT) was carried out on P3 & P6 children.

The correlation of these results have been used to identify strengths and areas of weakness at whole school, class and individual pupil level. Realistic but challenging targets for the future academic year have been set.

Test results are recorded for each child enabling progress to be tracked via the SIMS software.

Additional assessments are carried out by the Learning Support Teacher and teachers assess children in their classes on a regular basis to inform planning.

On-going assessment of teaching and learning is an integral part of St. Mary's approach and children are encouraged to evaluate and reflect on their own learning. Varieties of approaches recommended by Assessment for Learning are used throughout the classes, encouraging self and peer assessment. Pupils were assessed using the levels of Progression for Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT. P4 and P7 were assessed with reference to the levels in Communication and Using Mathematics and these results were reported to parents in June 2018.

Northern Ireland Keys Stage assessment result 2017/18

Key Stage I		NI Levels in Communication		
	<u>QQ*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
No of pupils	45	399	2550	598
%	1.25	11.11	70.99	16.65
St. Mary's Level in Communication				
No.of Pupils	0	2	6	2
%	0	20	60	20

Key Stage I		NI Levels in Using Mathematics		
	<u>QQ*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
No of pupils	38	353	2622	615
%	1.05	9.73	72.27	16.95
St. Mary's Level in Using Mathematics				
No.of Pupils	0	1	7	2
%	0	10	70	20

NOTES: * QQ = Working towards level 1

Please note that the 2017/18 data has been produced based on submitted returns from approximately 14% of primary schools and the information presented here has not been weighted to reflect the school production. Schools should therefore exercise **caution when interpreting these results and analysing data year on year.**

Key Stage 2		NI Levels in Communication				
	<u>QQ*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
No of pupils	#	23	127	563	2195	551
%	#	0.66	3.66	16.24	63.33	15.90
St. Mary's Level in Communication						
No.of Pupils	0	0	1	5	13	1
%	0	0	5	25	65	5

Key Stage 2		NI Levels in Using Mathematics				
	<u>QQ*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
No of pupils	#	19	113	568	2026	736
%	#	0.55	3.26	16.38	58.42	21.22
St. Mary's Level in Using Mathematics						
No.of Pupils	0	0	0	5	12	3
%	0	0	0	25	60	15

NOTES: * QQ = Working towards level 1

** Denotes fewer than 5 pupils

#Figure not disclosed due to rules of statistical suppression

SPORTING AND EX-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN ST MARY'S

Swimming

The children from P5 – P7 attended swimming lessons at Downpatrick Leisure Centre. The children were led by qualified swimming coaches. All children participated readily in this activity and excellent progress has been made across the four year groups with all children receiving an award – Well Done!

Soccer

This year saw the further development of the soccer club in St. Mary's PS under the coaching expertise of Mr Sharvin. Weekly after school training sessions saw the promotion and development of some fine skills and qualities.

Gaelic Coaching

2017/18 saw the coaching of Gaelic skills for children from P3-P7 offered by Down County Board.

Netball Coaching

The KS2 children were coached by Miss Hanna during the 2nd & 3rd terms. Our school hosted a very successful netball tournament and three other schools attended.

Sports Day

We had another successful Sports day on 13th June organised by Mrs Martin. The weather was perfect which helped make the day an enjoyable one for everyone. Many children received medals for achieving first and second place and all children received a special award for their participation. We are very grateful to our local Spar for providing water and fruit.

Summer Scheme

The Summer Scheme was once again offered to the children during July and August 2018. The scheme ran each day from 9.00am until 1.00pm. The children got a full range of planned activities including Treasure Hunts, Bouncy Castles, Day Trips and Arts and Crafts. This club not only provided entertainment for our children but also facilitated a smooth transition for our new primary one children. This club was well attended each day with 23 children. This Summer Scheme also allows the children who are due to start St.Mary's in P1 the opportunity to get to know the staff and become familiar with the school setting.

The extra curricular activities at St.Mary's, provided numerous benefits for our children enabling them to explore their physical, creative, and social interest as well as learning many new skills. Clubs included, our very popular Stay and Play club, Breakfast club, Soccer, Art, ICT, Construction, Dance and games.

These activities enable our children to avail of an extended day from 8.00am until 4.00pm.

The Board of Governors wishes to thank those staff who organised and/or provided these activities and the outside agencies who worked in partnership with the school to provide this programme.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The Board of Governors have met termly and have availed of training provided by EA.

The Governors have linked with teaching staff who have areas of responsibility to support staff through the implementation of their action plan and to further develop the partnership between governors and staff.

Mrs Miller was asked by EA to deliver a workshop to newly appointed Principals during the first term and in May she lead a seminar on Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) for Principals in Armagh.

Mrs Martin was asked by the literacy team within EA to support three schools in formal intervention. Throughout the year the SENCO and Designated Child Protection teacher disseminated effective practice to other schools.

The Chair, Principal, Vice Principal and coordinators have worked closely to develop comprehensive systems for the monitoring and evaluation of learning within the school.

Teaching Staff	Area of Responsibility	Governor
Mrs Hagan	ICT	Mrs A. Polland
Miss Hanna	SENCO	Miss M Morrow
Mrs Hagan	Child Protection	Mrs C Clark
Mrs Martin	Literacy	Mrs M O'Prey
Mrs Miller	Numeracy	Mrs C Clark
Mrs Miller	Strategic Action Plan	Mr J P Magee

The Board of Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank CCMS and the EA for their support, guidance and commitment to the leadership and management of St. Mary's Primary School.

All staff members have met with the principal to discuss their roles and responsibilities within the school. Together they have agreed a clear job description which will be reviewed each year.

In this way St. Mary's Primary School now has a clear staffing structure, with an even distribution of responsibilities for the effective management of the school.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

CRED requires schools to look beyond the religious divide and encourages schools to develop understanding of issues such as disability, discrimination and gender issues. Within St. Mary's opportunities such as European Day of Languages, our Alive-O programme, Catholic Schools' Week and Culture Day actively raise whole school awareness of CRED values.

In addition St. Mary's Primary School and Killyleagh Primary School have a cluster programme running through the Extended Schools. We shared ideas on enhancing the Teaching and Learning experiences in our schools. Our respective football clubs played against each other in friendly matches. The P6/7 pupils from both schools attended workshops provided by the local library and Killyleagh Castle.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

St. Mary's has continued to work to develop links with the local community. In the past year the following took place:

- Friends of St Mary's functions
- Welcome Assembly
- Beginning of year School Mass

- Halloween Disco
- P1 Prayer Service
- Roots of Empathy programme
- Open Night
- Christmas concert performance
- P1/2 Christmas Nativity
- Children's Christmas Mass
- Grandparents Day
- Enrolment Ceremony
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Joint Confirmation service
- Jujitsu demonstration
- NSPCC assembly and workshops
- Passion Play
- First Communion
- The Junior Entrepreneur Programme

- Book Fairs
- Action Cancer-
- Participation in Cross Community Carol Service at Killyleagh Castle
- Curriculum meetings for parents
- Fundraising for Trocaire and other charities
- Family Sport's Day
- Parents meetings and interviews
- Various Competitions from local community initiatives
- Information Session for parents
- Induction Meeting
- Visits by School Nurse and Dentist
- Visits from Educational Psychologist
- Partnership with ASCET
- Support from Killard House & Cottown
- After-schools Clubs
- Provision of Reading Partnership
- P7 Leavers Mass
- Visit from Educational Welfare
- Participation in Big Pedal
- Parent invitations to special assemblies
- Trip to the farm
- Trip to W5

In addition the following approaches are used to keep the community involved and informed:

- Newsletter
- Letters Home
- Homework Diaries
- Website with photographs and information from the school
- Facebook
- Classroom information boards / school noticeboard
- Photographs and articles in local newspapers
- Prospectus
- Annual Governors Report

OPEN MORNING

An 'Open Morning' took place in St.Mary's Primary School on 5th December at 110am. It proved to be an invaluable opportunity for prospective parents to see first hand the facilities and experience the wonderful atmosphere which exists in the primary school. From this 6 applications were received for P1 admission in September 2018. An induction morning was held for these children on Thursday 7th June.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS.

Parent-Teacher consultations were held in November 2017. A detailed report was issued to parents in June 2018. The school continues to regard this report and consultations as a vital part of good communication between the home and school. The school also encouraged parents to consult with teachers on a regular basis throughout the year and many parents availed of Numeracy workshops and Literacy workshops.

PARENT- VOICE

To further promote and develop communication Parent's Voice workshops were hosted. Through these opportunities key policies such as Relationships and Sexuality, Teaching for Learning and Anti- Bullying were discussed. The priorities in the School Development Plan were explained and parents were asked to outline experiences and opportunities that were going well in the school and areas for future development.

LINKS WITH POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We continue our close links with the local secondary schools, St Colmcille's High School, St Colman's Ballynahinch, St. Mary's High School, De La Salle High School, Downpatrick and the grammar schools Assumption Grammar School and St. Patrick's Grammar School. Teachers from all of these schools visit our school at least once annually to speak with our P7 children.

Indeed, we deeply appreciate the support given to us by all our Post-Primary Schools. There is no doubt that such activities, taken together with the Post-Primary and Grammar School Open Evenings, do help children and their parents to make better informed choices of post-primary level schools for their children

SCHOOL TRIPS and VISITS

Linen Museum 04/10/17 P5/6
Bridge Centre – 18/10/17 – P1-7
W5 – 10/10/17 Space Workshop P3
Killyleagh, Comber Road- Traffic Survey P4/5 P5/6 (linked with RAC)
Apple Store- 14/11/17 – P4-7
Killyleagh Library – P4/5/6
ASDA – Carol Singing (P5/6/7)
Killyleagh Library (World War 2) 15/12/17 – P7
St Colmicille's High School 18/1/18 P7
Grand Opera House 14/2/18 P1-7
Ballymote Centre (Bee Safe) 5/2/18 P7
St Mary's Star of the Sea (First Confessions)
East Coast Adventures 20/4/18 P7
Killyleagh Shore- 19/04/18 P3
Stormont (Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award)
St Mary's Star of the Sea Church (First Holy Communion)
St Mary's Star of the Sea Church (Confirmation)
Killyleagh Castle 04/05/18- P7
Killyleagh Library P1/2; P7
Downpatrick Leisure Centre P5, P6 & P7

ENROLMENT AND ADMISSIONS

The enrolment figure for 2017/2018 was 88.

A total of 20 children transferred to secondary level education.

St Patrick's Grammar, Downpatrick	1
St. Mary's High School, Downpatrick	2
St Colmcilles, Crossgar	16
St Colmans Ballynahinch	1

Congratulations to all our P7's who have transferred to their new schools and we wish them well in their new schools.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

In accordance with Department of Education guidance five non-contact days and five school development days were used in 2017/18 school year.

Dates of School Development Days	Focus of Training
21 st August 2017	Data and target setting Numeracy
22 nd August 2017	Data and target setting Literacy
25 th August 2017	Audit Catholic Ethos & Planning
5 th January 2018	Child Protection & ICT Training
9 th April 2018	Stem/Global Learning & SEN

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The following policies were reviewed and updated. They may, on request, be inspected at the school:

Complaints Policy

World Around Us Policy

Critical Incident Policy

Assessment Policy

Pastoral Care Policy

ATTENDANCE

The percentage attendance for pupils in 2017/2018 for P1 - P7 was 95.6%.

Attendance is monitored regularly by the Principal and in partnership with the teaching staff. The Principal is made aware of concerns regarding attendance by staff and liaises with parents to address these issues.

The Education Welfare Service supports St.Mary's in maintaining and improving attendance. Should school intervention fail, their Education Welfare Officer will address attendance issues directly with parents.

STAFFING.

LIST OF CLASS TEACHERS 2017/18

Miss Hanna	PI/2 SENCO
Mrs Miller/ Mrs Black	P3 Principal/ Numeracy Co-ordinator DDT
Miss O’Riordan	P4/5 WAU
Mrs Hagan	P5/6 ICT - DT
Mrs Martin	P7 Vice Principal/ Literacy Co-ordinator
Mrs Black	Principal Release & Learning Support

ANCILLARY AND AUXILLARY STAFF

Mrs Williams	School Secretary
Mr Sharvin	Building Supervisor
Mrs Boyle	PI Classroom Assistant/ Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Evans	SEN Classroom Assistant / Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Quinn	SEN Classroom Assistant
Ms Craig	SEN Classroom Assistant / Lunchtime Supervisor
Mr Fitzpatrick	General Supervisor
Mrs Bentley	Kitchen Attendant
Mrs McGreeghan	Kitchen Attendant

BUILDING AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The children and staff are kept safe on our school premises at all times. Exterior doors are kept locked and there is a buzzer system in place for visitors to the school.

All visitors to the school must report to the secretary’s office and sign the visitors book. Children are collected from allocated destinations within the school. It is then the parent’s responsibility to accompany their child(ren) home or to their car. Older children are allowed to walk home with parental permission a teacher accompanies older children to the top gate each day.

Leaks to the assembly hall roof were repaired and a broken handle on the staff room window was replaced.

The school continues to be maintained to the highest standards. This is a reflection of the respect and care shown by the children for their school and also of the high standard of care-taking in the school. The Board of Governors wishes to thank Mr Eugene Doyle, SEELB, Building Maintenance for his commitment and hard work in ensuring that the premises in St Mary’s are maintained to high standards.

LMS BUDGET REPORT.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Governors administered a delegated budget of £305,744.00 At the end of the 2017/18 financial year there was a surplus of £19,041.00 .

SCHOOL FUNDS

The school also operated a school fund account for incidental expenses and immediate requirements. The major fundraisers were disco's and concerts which raised £3,625.00 The balance of school funds was £2556.00 on 30th June 2018.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

The Board of Governors wishes to extend its thanks to the members of the Friends of St. Mary's organization for their continuing interest and help in the school. Not only do they support the school through the financing of resources they also contribute to the life of the school and wider community. Their hard work, dedication and genuine commitment to the school is greatly appreciated. To date the Friend's of St. Mary's has helped the school purchase ipads,selection boxes, sports materials and medals.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This year's annual Report to Parents brings further good news to the community of St. Mary's. It's been a wonderful and rewarding year for pupils, teachers, support staff and parents. There's a buzz of excitement and enthusiasm about the school and significant progress has been made on so many fronts. Many new projects and initiatives were implemented and embodied into the work ethic of the school. The year has been full of fun and enjoyment for the children and our rekindled ethos continues to restore the pride and confidence of the school community.

This Annual Report is now on the school website.