



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

**Board of Governors'
Annual Report
2018 - 2019**

1. THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

The philosophies, aims and objectives of the school, as defined by the Board of Governors, have been set out in the following short mission statement:

We, the governors and staff of St Mary's on the Hill Primary School, believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community living in the Parish of St Mary's on the Hill. We aim to create a supportive inclusive Christian school community. A community in which all members are valued.

We believe that high quality teaching and learning are central to our motivation as a school. We believe that all children can learn and that all pupils have strengths. We encourage pupils to:

- develop their full potential spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically;
- contribute positively to the world in which they are living;
- contribute to the economy and environment.

We are a Catholic school, committed to the Statement of Aims of Catholic Schools, and to the promotion of an ethos throughout the school which reflects the Christian teaching and values of the Church. We aim to help the children grow in awareness of the presence of God in themselves, in others and in the world around them.

Our school is not an isolated institution but it is part of the community, responsible to it and providing an important community service. We take this responsibility seriously and will seek the further involvement and interest of parents and others not only in the welfare of individual children but in the school as a whole. We work hard to build tangible links between the school, home, parish and wider community.

We seek to provide a caring service that recognises the human value of pupil, teacher and parent; that appreciates the need to help pupils manage their present lives as well as helping them prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life; one that treats teachers not just as employees but as valued associates and partners of parents.

We aim to provide a centre of educational excellence - one that is planned, developed to the highest professional standards, and constantly evaluated so as to maximise the benefit each pupil receives from his/her experiences at the school.

2. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

This year the Board of Governors were reconstituted. The Board of Governors have overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. As well as nominees of the Trustees, the Education Authority and the Department of Education, its membership includes a Governor elected by the parents and a Governor elected by the teaching staff. The principal is also a member.

A list of members is included in Appendix 1.

The Governors have particular responsibilities in relation to the curriculum, the appointment and dismissal of staff, admissions to the school, discipline, complaints, school funds and buildings.

An important function for the governors is to consider the needs of the school in terms of staff, buildings, and other resources and to advise the various other authorities if we believe these needs are not being met. An equally important function is to ensure that the resources available to the school are being effectively used.

3. THE CURRICULUM

The enrolment figure for 2018/2019 was 383.

The curriculum is made up of all the opportunities for learning provided by the school - not just the formal lessons, but the climate of relationships, the style of behaviour and general quality of life evident within the school community. In a Catholic school such as ours, the teaching and expression of our Catholic values is an important element of the curriculum.

The curriculum is set out in six areas of learning:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education.

It is infused with the cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using Information Communication Technology.

The curriculum promotes children's self-esteem by concentrating on activities and learning experiences which encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity. It encourages children to take an active responsibility for their own learning.

In St Mary's on the Hill, pupils are given opportunities to learn in a variety of ways and in different social groupings. Teachers employ a wide range of teaching methods to ensure the children have opportunities for interactive, practical activities where children are encouraged to self-assess and plan for improvement.

Teachers plan together each week to ensure pupils' learning intentions are agreed whilst ensuring that their own individual class needs are catered for. They ensure that work is planned, reviewed and evaluated every eight weeks. Teachers include assessment methods for each 8 weekly planner. These assessments provide teachers with information on how each pupil is progressing and also identify areas which may require additional help.

Congratulations to Mrs Birt and The Eco Council who applied for and were awarded a second Green Flag. They have also completed an environmental review and have held events such as a power down hour and a paper free morning.

4. CURRICULUM PLANNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum Development and In-Service Training were ongoing throughout the year. The principal and the Senior Leadership Team met with all teachers to provide guidance on setting targets for Years 3-7, based on the results from GL tests. This assisted the teachers in identifying strengths and areas of concern for pupils, classes and in the school as a whole.

The main focus on the School Development Plan (SDP) in 2018/19 was Literacy and Numeracy, in addition to continued development of ICT.

Numeracy:

Mrs Dempsey and Mr McEvoy - have continued to use Learning by Questions. The school was one of four schools in the area participating in a new initiative, a maths feedback project using question sets that boost learning. The question sets delivered instant feedback to the pupils along with live analysis for the teachers during the lessons.

This year they have met with C2k to review the Learning by Questions Programme. Professor Don Passy has conducted independent research on digital learning and has also met with them. Members of CCMS have also visited the school to see LBQ in use.

Numeracy KS2 and KS3 funding.

Mrs Thompson had arranged a number of meetings for the local primary and post primary schools. The school has taken part in Maths Week Ireland and Barvember was a great success where classes focused on a problem solving strategy each week. The school has also taken part in KS2/KS3 Evidence based Practice. This is a teacher professional learning programme that supports two teachers to conduct action-research in a P6 class to improve the use of bar modelling in Numeracy, by working with a focus group and helping them to develop the specific strategy of bar modelling to solve word problems, specifically to find a fraction of a number. The cluster group have now developed a programme of work that will begin in year 7 and continued into year 8. As part of the cluster group Mrs Thompson initiated a 24 Tournament: Four children from P7A represented our school in a 24 Tournament, competing against St Bernard's, St MacNissi's, Dominican College and Edmund Rice College. The tournament has been set up between our Numeracy Cluster Schools to help ease the transition from Year Seven to Year Eight.

Training for Year 3,4,5 parents in Problem Solving has been delivered by Mr Conway and Mrs Thompson. Bar Modelling plus three other strands to Problem Solving have continued to be a focus for the school. Parents have completed a questionnaire for Numeracy and this will inform the school in terms of the needs of the parental body.

Quantum Theatre: On Monday 13th May, Quantum Theatre presented a play called, The Half Pint Kid. This exciting tale followed the Half Pint Kid as she sets out on a trail of mathematical clues and skulduggery as she fights The Tumbleweed Gang to solve who has taken the missing money. This is a fun-filled way to enjoy maths for all children in the school.

Literacy:

A new approach to Whole Class teaching was introduced to the staff, including the use of VIPER strategy. The profile of Literacy has been raised through Book Fairs, Book Clubs, Poetry in Motion Project etc. Accelerated Reader has been extended and Star tests continue to track pupil progress.

Literacy Key Stage 2/ Key Stage 3 Cluster Group. The school worked in a Literacy cluster group with a range of primary and post-primary schools in the area;

- Hazelwood Integrated Primary
- Hazelwood Integrated College
- Edmund Rice College
- St James' Primary School
- St Therese of Lisieux
- Cliftonville Integrated Primary School

The main objective was to develop a Bridging Unit of work in literacy, which included collaboration between teachers of Key Stage 2 & 3, to promote an understanding of pupils' abilities and levels of knowledge. Ms. Walsh represented St. Mary's on the Hill in this project and we have worked together to design two lessons for Year 7. The focus was on the VIPER skills of summarising and

sequencing. Other schools were designing lessons with a focus on the other comprehension skills. Each participating school used one poem, 'In Mrs Tilscher's Class' and together, we created a portfolio of lessons. It is hoped that the lessons will give the children an opportunity to exhibit their skills and understand the 'type' of activities they will be asked to complete in Year 8 Literacy. We hope, too, that teachers will gain an understanding of how children are taught in each Key Stage and draw on similar styles, techniques and skills.

The collaboration will be available on the Fronter app within C2k. All teachers involved in the cluster group will be able to access the associated lesson plans and resources, which can be differentiated or adapted for use in the classroom.

'Young News Readers'

P7 pupils are took part in the 'Young News Readers' project, run by the Irish News, in association with St. Mary's University College. Over each of the eight weeks, the children received a School Edition of 'The Irish News' and read about the places, events, and people in the world around them, locally, nationally and internationally. At the same time, they acquired and practised a range of skills and breadth of knowledge and understanding of current events.

KS2/KS3 Evidence based Practice

This is a teacher professional learning scheme, providing two teachers with the tools to conduct action-research in class. In order to build capacity in literacy throughout the key stages, Mrs Dempsey Year 6 and Mrs McCluskey Year 3 participated in the project. With a focus on developing Comprehension Skills, in line with the School Development Literacy focus, the teachers designed a number of lessons using specific reading skills and measured the impact of the lessons based on the detail provided in responses from the children.

Solás Back on Track Programme

A volunteer, Dr. Colette Gray, worked with a small group of children to assist them in their reading skills.

KS2/KS3 Middle Management

This was a teacher professional learning programme focused on middle leadership that will support the Literacy and Numeracy coordinators, working alongside the principal, to develop their role in school improvement by improving professional knowledge and practice. We looked specifically at streamlining and improving our Action Plans in order to evaluate them more effectively and assess the impact of our actions on children's learning.

ICT:

Mrs Carey has co-opted new members onto the ICT Team. Interactive design has been introduced to the P5 classes. Mrs Carey has attended training in Coding and presented this to the staff. P6 Digital leaders have been established. Internet safety day took place in February.

Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 used the Seesaw app. This allowed the staff to showcase the children's work and provided the opportunity for parents to engage further in their child's learning and support them better at home.

Blogging Project Year 6 and Year 7: This News Desk project has seen great improvements in literacy and confidence in children who blog, particularly boys. Over 100 schools registered and have been grouped into fours, each with an assigned lead school to manage a blogging schedule. Year 6 or Year

7 class posted an article on the News Desk and comment on the articles that the other schools in your group post; this cycle continued until all 4 schools have posted.

Special Educational Needs:

Recording SEN and Medical Categories

The collection and recording of standard information about pupils in schools with special educational needs (SEN), across the Education Authority (EA) and schools is essential for the Department of Education (DE) and the EA to assist in,

- special education policy development and planning;
- identification of current and future funding needs;
- monitoring trends and providing answers to queries about data (specifically about pupils with special educational needs.)

A full review of SEN categories was undertaken in 2017/18 and consequently a new list of SEN categories and associated descriptions have been created. Mrs Mason and Miss Dougan have attended training regarding this and the school's records have been updated.

Special Needs provision was kept under review. Educational Plans were devised for children identified as having difficulty in a specific area of the curriculum. The class teachers reviewed these plans and, together with Miss Dougan and Mr Conway, determined the appropriate next stage for each child. A part-time teacher is employed to support children with specific numeracy and literacy difficulties.

Miss Dougan has attended training in relation to the new SEND Act (NI).

Mr Conway and Miss Dougan continued to liaise with support services and agencies to access the necessary help for individual pupils.

Training:

In-school training was provided to support teachers in the delivery of the curriculum. Aspects covered included:

- Child Protection
- Grow in Love Training for new Year 7 programme
- Literacy & Numeracy Workshops
- Assessment Manager SIMS
- Use of Data /Data Analysis
- Early Years Training
- C2k Internet Safety Training
- Numeracy CPD Project
- A number of staff have continued training through the KS2 and KS3 projects
- Principal Cluster Groups
- VP Cluster Group Meetings
- Anaphylaxis Awareness Training
- Epilepsy Awareness Training
- Accelerated Reader
- Bar Modelling /Problem Solving
- Play Based Learning
- Teacher Welfare
- Coding – ICT
- The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

- EA iProcurement Requisitioner Practical Training
- EA Educational Leadership Conference - "The Learning Revolution" with Professor John Hattie.

Other:

Mrs Ross successfully applied to the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association (NIFSA). Schools selected at this stage will take part in the programme between September 2019 and June 2021 with only 2 schools per school year allowed to take part.

P7's have completed a programme with the Youth Outreach Officer for the Belfast Hills Partnership called the Mini Meadows Project. The aim of the project was to encourage young people to think about the importance of pollinators.

More than seventy pupils were in receipt of music tuition. A number of children received tuition in woodwind instruments including, flute, clarinet and oboe and some children received tuition for baritone, tenor horn and trumpet. Mr McEvoy continued to conduct the choir, teaching them new pieces throughout the year. They performed again at the Annual Peace Proms event at the SSE Arena, the school Open Morning, before the YEAR 2 Christmas concert, at Ashwood, Glebe and Dunanney Nursing Homes and in Tesco, Northcott.

Primary 4 to 7 have had the opportunity to learn some Irish poems with Ms. Walsh. Eight children were selected to represent the school at Feis Bheál Feirste in June and very successful becoming and were the overall winners

The practice of teachers in each primary level jointly planning their half-termly schemes of work was continued. Teachers from Year 1 to 3 covered Year 4 to 7 teachers to allow this joint planning. Specific areas of the curriculum were addressed at this time.

The Cluster for Play/Activity Based Learning led by Mrs McIntyre including local schools in the area have continued to meet to discuss good practice and share ideas and resources.

P7 Bridge lessons. The project has been set up by the Youth Committee of the Northern Ireland Bridge Union. There is no cost involved for the pupils. The classes have been well received with the pupils enjoying their lessons and we have positive feedback too from the teachers.

A list of staff for 2018/19 is included in Appendix 2.

5. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Teachers continue to keep up-to-date pieces of pupils' work as evidence of each child's achievements in the main curricular areas. At the end of the school year, a file containing information about pupils' progress is transferred to the child's new teacher.

In Term 2 this year, parents/guardians of pupils in Year 1 to 7 were formally invited to discuss their children's progress with the teacher. Annual reports, outlining each child's progress and achievements, were sent to parents/guardians in the Summer Term.

The GL Tests in English and Mathematics were administered to all pupils in Year 7 in November and Year 3 to 6 in May. In addition, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) 4 was also conducted with Year 4 and Year 6 pupils in October. The results were analysed by the Senior Leadership Team. Areas of

improvement were identified for classes, year groups, key stage and at whole-school level. The results of these tests are used to inform teachers' planning.

Post-Primary Transfer:

In May 2019, parents of Year 7 pupils received notification of the post-primary place allocated to their child. The destinations of our Year 7 pupils are listed below.

Dominican College	Edmund Rice	St Malachy's	Blessed Trinity College	Belfast Royal Academy
10	25	11	5	5
Victoria College	Ballyclare High School	St Dominic's High School		
1	1	2		

Records of Achievement documents record both academic and non-academic achievements of children throughout their years of primary schooling. Pupils in Year 7 were awarded these following the Leavers' Mass in June.

6. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The school considers itself very much part of the local community. During the year we have continued to work closely with the parish in preparing our children for the sacraments of Penance, First Communion and Confirmation. We continue to assist Mallusk Primary school in preparing their pupils for the sacraments also.

Father Darren, our school Chaplain was a regular visitor to the school during the year, providing support for both pupils and staff. A small number of our children assist in serving at Mass, and Year 4 to 7 pupils regularly attend Mass in the church, on a rota basis.

Various meetings were held to inform parents about the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These were very well attended by our parents.

Training for the new Grow in Love Programme has been presented to the P6 and P7 teachers. A number of mass hymns have been changed for this year.

Masses and ceremonies were held to celebrate the following:

- Opening School Mass (September)
- Prayer Service to welcome Year 1 children (November)
- Carol Service in December
- Enrolment Ceremony for Year 3 children (March)
- Confessions for Year 4 -7 children in December and Easter
- Year 3 children received Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Year Four children received First Holy Communion and attended Holy Hour presented by Fr. Darren
- Year Seven children were Confirmed, together with the other parish schools in St Bernard's Church in March
- Ceremonies of Service of Light and Commitment for Year 7- February
- Year 7 Retreat in Clonard Monastery – May
- Year 7 Leavers' Mass- June
- End-of-year Mass – June.

Throughout the year, and as part of preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion, Year 4 children took part in the Parish-based programme "Do This in Memory".

All pupils took part in and presented Assemblies over the course of the year.

The School Choir took part in a number of the Masses/Ceremonies throughout the year.

During Catholic Schools Week we had a designated day as Grandparents' Day. A large number of grandparents attended the morning which was hosted by Year 2 children.

The staff attended 'Catholic Leadership' training, which was presented by Joan McCombe –Down and Connor Catholic Schools Service.

7. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Year 4 and Year 5 pupils received tuition from a Fundamental Skills Hurling coach throughout the year – supported and financed by Antrim Gaelic Association – which develops fundamental movement skills and physical literacy. Pupils also had the opportunity to raise their confidence and self-esteem through the activities undertaken.

FS and KS1 Sports Days were held in the school grounds and KS2 Sports Day was hosted by Ashgrove PS. Those children achieving first to third place received medals, all children received a certificate for their participation.

Year 4 to Year 7 pupils took part in a Mindfulness programme with the aim to help children manage anxiety in their lives.

Year 7 pupils took part in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Road Safety heats and reached the finals a special thank you goes to Mr Carter for organising this.

Pupils from all year groups participated in European Day of Languages. Pupils dressed in traditional costumes, tasted food from various countries, sang songs and were involved in researching European countries. Pupils in Years 2 – 7 engaged in a variety of songs, rhymes and activities to promote an understanding of the French, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish languages and cultures. Parents from the school supported the classes and introduced a range of languages to the children.

All pupils participated in Anti-Bullying week, with many pupils being involved in Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU) activities and using online resources to explore this area. Staff have received training in The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016. Questionnaires have been issued to pupils and parents about bullying and the staff have engaged in a series of lessons to explore these issues with the pupils. The school has further been supported by Rosemary Briggs from the Education Authority in reviewing the Anti Bullying Policy.

Year 7 pupils also participated in the BEE Safe programme, Love for Life and The Medics in the Primary School programme, delivered by student doctors, providing the pupils with a real insight into health issues.

The children took part in the school book fair, on two occasions, which gave them the option of purchasing books throughout the year. Along with this, the children had the option of purchasing books from the Scholastic book club on a monthly basis.

The pupils had the opportunity to take part in various themed dinner days, such as the Hallowe'en dinner, Christmas dinner, Valentine's dinner and St Patrick's dinner. The school cook, Mrs Butler, also worked with the classes, baking and cooking pizza as part of the children's curricular work. She also helped the Year 1 teachers prepare a teddy bears' picnic.

Again as in previous years, the school celebrated St. Patrick's Day by having a whole school 'Day of Culture.' The classes presented various Irish songs, poems and dance. Children were also asked to wear something green.

World Book Day continued from dressing up activities, book swaps, reading buddies and storytelling.

The School Council continued to thrive under the leadership of Mrs Dempsey. The Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey presented the children with their badge of office in November. They held their annual fund raising day and ran events such as Basket Ball coaching and an Introduction to Golf. They also ran a competition for the whole school in designing Problem Solving prompt cards. They also took part in a visit Parliament Buildings.

Digital Leaders continued this year and commitment and support to the classes and teachers had a huge impact in the deliverance of the ICT programme.

"The digital leaders team, comprised of pupils drawn from Year 6 and Year 7, provided me with amazing insights into how they understand their role in supporting younger pupils and their teachers. They are exceptionally mature, committed and insightful about how digital technologies can help them learn and showed remarkable wisdom in their comments to me. More importantly, however, they understand the importance of being part of a team of learners and how to support those less advanced in the digital journey than themselves."

Dr Victor McNair of Digital Schools

8. EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In May, Year 7 pupils participated in a very successful and enjoyable residential trip to Carlingford. In addition, a wide range of educational visits was conducted during the year. Pupils in all year groups were given the opportunity to enhance the work carried out in the classroom by visiting a variety of places of interest.

Risk assessments were carried out and completed to ensure the safe delivery of the programmes which included:

Educational Trips/Community Links:2018 /2019

Year Group	Trip Detail: when and where	Visitor Detail: who and why
P1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty and the Beast Pantomime Dec 2018, Waterfront Studio • Streamvale Farm • Crawfordsburn Beach trip- seaside topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent with Baby • Winter Stories by Mrs McVeigh
P2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glengormley Fire Station- Oct 2018 • Beauty and the Beast Pantomime Dec 2018, Waterfront Studio • Pets at Home trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit from Dentist for 'People Who Help Us' topic (Beth Hanlon's mother) • Visit from PSNI • Visit from Paramedic in the community • Visit from dietitian for Food topic • Dog's Trust- Pets Topic • Party Animals NI- snakes, chinchilla, rabbit, hedgehog, red-bearded dragon, turtle- multisensory experience for children
P3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrickfergus Castle October 2018 • Beauty and the Beast Pantomime Dec 2018 • Armagh Planetarium March 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMillan Estate Agents: explained the process of buying Houses. • Jim Morgan (Uncle of a child in P3a) – Architect explained how houses are designed and built.
P4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided tour Carnmoney Library • INTO trip to Glengormley Cinema • Cinemagic trip to Grand Opera House 1st October • Beauty and the Beast Pantomime 5th Dec 2018, Waterfront 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War Two workshop in assembly hall • Action for Hearing Loss Workshop • Recycle bus • October Firefighters safety talk • Hurling coaching • Mindfulness • Stormont visitor to inform us on school council elections
P5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titanic Belfast 23rd February 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Man Workshop • PSNI Internet Safety 19th March 2018 • Firefighters 20th March 2018 • Jan/Feb/March Mindfulness classes • 6th February Internet Safety Talk Mrs Burke SMOTH • 6th February Waterbus SMOTH • Sept – February Hurling lessons • 19th March PSNI Internet Safety SMOTH

P6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Visit 18th, 19th September • Choir- Dunanney and Glebe Nursing Homes 18th Dec • BOI 7th Dec • Tesco 14th Dec • Peace Proms Workshop at Queens 13th Feb • Peace Proms- Sun 24th Feb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormont Education Officers 18th September SMOTH • Calm Confident Kids with Tori Sept/Oct 2018 SMOTH • Firework Safety Assembly 20th October 2018 SMOTH • 12th November -Viking workshop • Mayor Assembly-26th Nov • Arc 21 Bus-27th November • Love Living Here Art Project Nov/Dec 2018 • Clanmill Housing Art Project 22nd Jan and 8th Feb in Lagan Valley • 5th February Internet Safety Talk Mrs Burke SMOTH • Dairy Council 7th February 2019 SMOTH • Basketball (Josh) 20th March • Golf (Nathan) 28th March
P7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th December Hospice Carol Singing • 14th December – Tesco Carol Singing • Dunanney/Glebe Nursing Homes Carol Singing • 5th February UUI Inter Schools Athletics Competition (12) • 13th February – Queen’s Peace Proms Workshop • 24th February – SSE Arena Peace Proms • 22nd March – Hurling Tournament @ UUI • 26th March – Soccer Match @ Ashgrove P.S • 7th April – Lisburn Leisureplex Athletics Final (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th September Stormont Officer Talk • Sept – December Hurling lessons with Simon McCrory • 24th Sept/ 4th, 11th, 18th October Diane Morrison for Poetry in Motion • 26th September Blessed Trinity Experience • 25th October – Fortwilliam Experience for P7 girls • 6th November Victorian Workshop. • November 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th – Deaf Awareness Basic Sign Language • 11th December Edmund Rice Christmas Concert, ‘A Christmas Carol’ • 14th December Edmund Rice School Experience • 11th January SMOTH Trinity College Talk about school • 11th January SMOTH Aquinas Grammar Talk about school • 5th February Internet Safety Talk Mrs Burke SMOTH • Tuesdays in Feb/March Medics in PS • 12th March Poetry in Motion at Ulster Hall • 20th March – Basketball Demo • 28th March – Golf demo • Beginning 25th March - Bridge lessons

A wide range of After Schools Provision was offered for all pupils, which included:

- Gaelic Football
- French Tuition
- Play Sport NI
- Arts and Crafts
- Drama
- Guitar Lessons
- Judo
- Hurling
- Waiting Class 2-3pm supervision.

Sport:

In January 12 pupils entered the Ulster University Jordanstown Inter Schools Athletics Competition.

In March 5 Year 7 pupils took part in the Athletics Final in Lisburn Leisureplex.

Year 6-7 took part in Cumman na mBunscol Hurling League 3rd May

Year 5,6, 7 took part in Gerard Lawlor Gaelic Tournament Fri 11th May and reached the Cup Final

Year 4,5 took part in a Cumman na mBunscol blitz on Friday 1st June

Year 4-7 took part in the Niamh Eanna Cup on June 13th

Year 7s have taken part in a Triathlon organised by the Sports and Play Development Officer Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Swimming has continued for the Year 5,6,7 classes

Hurling coaching continued to be provided in school by Simon McCrory from Antrim GAA for the Year 4 and Year 7 classes.

9. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

In February we introduced an online payment system entitled 'SchoolMoney.' This meant that parents now have the facility to make payments for school expenses, such as trips, dinner, music tuition etc. online with their debit or credit card. This new payment system was of great benefit both the school and parents. It enabled us to experience a more streamlined, cost-effective and efficient payment system in a secure and safe environment.

Links and communication with parents /guardians were continued in 2018/2019. We take pride in our strong links with parents and guardians and offer the opportunity for them to meet with teachers.

These included:

- Meetings with parents/guardians in August/September for Year 1 pupils
- Curriculum talks in the Autumn term
- Meetings with parents/guardians in Term 2
- Transfer Interviews in February
- All parents /guardians received a written report in June.

Parents attended meetings and services linked to Sacramental preparation. Parents/carers were also invited to a class assembly. A special assembly was organised for the pupils who were elected to the school council and this was attended by the parents/carers of those children and the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The Open Morning in December catered for both the primary school and pre-school playgroup and was very well attended by prospective pupils and parents/carers. The school choir entertained the adults and children as they gathered in the hall. Many of the adults commented on the warm atmosphere within the school and praised the Year 7 pupils who acted as escorts as they toured the school.

The Year 2 Christmas Concert was performed in December. The Year 1 Prayer Service was a delight. Great efforts were made by both pupils and teachers and the concert and prayer service were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Year 5 led the annual Carol Service in the Church.

Parents/carers were treated by Year 7 to an end-of-year concert, 'The Wizard of Oz'.

There were also opportunities for parents/carers to further develop their own skills and knowledge with a number of parents attending the following courses:

- Internet Safety Awareness,
- Workshops for Year 1 parents/guardians on Phonological Awareness and Blending,
- Engagement session to complete registration for P1
- Years 3, 4, 5 Problem Solving and Mental Maths evening.

St Mary's on the Hill Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) organised various fundraising and social events during the year. These included discos for pupils and the Summer Fair. We are greatly indebted to the PTA for the time and energy they devote to raising much needed funds for the school but also for helping to further enhance the family atmosphere within St Mary's on the Hill through their fundraising efforts.

The Monthly Events Newsletter has continued, celebrating the achievements of the pupils in the school and keeping parents/guardians up to date with important dates and events. Further details of the events for the year can be accessed through the links below: <https://stmarysonthehill.co.uk/for-parents/publications/>

The school newsletter 'SMOTHtalk' was published in October, December, April and June and was distributed to all families and promoted through the Church. It included items written by the pupils and photos of events and activities in which pupils were involved.

Our school website, <https://stmarysonthehill.co.uk/> provides parents/guardians with detailed information on the life of the school, celebrates pupil achievements and provides information on how parents/guardians can support their child's education. Within the Pupil Links, our students have access to various websites and documents in order to assist their learning. General school notes are now emailed distributed to the eldest child in families and are posted on the school website.

10. COMMUNITY LINKS

We are proud of our local and extended community links. We enjoy good relationships with the other parish primary and post-primary schools.

A number of post-primary schools visited the school providing the Year 7 pupils with information about their school.

Links have been further developed with the pre-school settings from which our pupils come. Pre-school pupils, from various settings, attended 'Green Fingers Days' in May, during which they planted sunflower seeds and spent the morning with the Year 1 teachers. This provided the children with an opportunity to meet their teacher and experience the primary school setting. Induction days for the pupils and their parents/guardians took place in June.

Throughout 2018/2019 we accommodated work experience pupils from local post-primary schools.

The school supports the charitable work of the St Vincent de Paul Society each Christmas. Twenty hampers were made up, using gifts donated by parents/carers, and these were presented to the Society for distribution.

During Trocáire Week, all classes were involved in a variety of fundraising events.

A number of other charities, who benefited from fundraising activities over the year, are included in Appendix 4.

11. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Board of Governors is committed to continuing the process of further upgrading the school's environment and of applying pressure to the Education Authority and Department of Education to fulfil their responsibilities with regard to the upkeep of the school buildings in the current academic year.

- The replacement mobiles Year 4 and Year 5 is still ongoing. Progress has been made and a business case is now being issued to the Department of Education.
- A programme to update and provide Vision Panels and Fire Doors and Emergency Lighting has been completed.
- A Minor Works Application has for a lobby area at the front of the school has been successful and this work should be completed in 2019/2020.
- Broadband provision has been upgraded.
- The Medical Room has been updated.
- The roof has had several repairs.

The Board of Governor link officer Mr Grehan, the Principal and a member of the Education Authority's Health and Safety Team completed an Audit during the summer.

12. FINANCE

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the allocation of the budget, but on a day-to-day basis this responsibility is exercised by the Principal. The budget is calculated by the Education Authority using a formula which applies to all schools in its area. The main elements in the formula are the number of pupils, the number of pupils entitled to free school meals and factors related to the size and design of the school buildings which affect running costs.

Total Budget Allocated: £1,099,263

Expenditure:

Staff Costs: £ 958,088

Non staff costs: £ 111,524

Income: £ -27,366

Total Expenditure: £ 1,042,246

Balance c/fwd. @ March 2019: £ 57,017

The school also continued to operate a voluntary fund. An income/expenditure statement is included as Appendix 3. Detailed accounts are available and may be examined on request.

The Board of Governors would like to thank parents/guardians for responding so generously to the various fundraising activities during the year.

13. CONCLUSION

When the Board of Governors was reconstituted last September, I was greatly honoured to be voted in again as Chair. I wish to thank them and Mr Conway for their support for me. I intend, with God's blessing, and our very committed Board to make the next four years of service as beneficial for the whole school community as the budget constraints allow us. I wish to thank the Governors who give voluntarily of their time and ably support and advise in the management of the school throughout the year.

The school continues to go from strength to strength and the hard work and commitment of our staff can be seen as targets are met and our children achieve standards at and above their natural ability. The Governors wish to thank Mr Conway and the hard-working dedicated staff for ensuring the quality and the provision of pastoral care is to the highest standard. Their commitment to the promotion of catholic ethos and catholic education is obvious in the wonderful children we have in our school.

Two of our staff left us for new positions, and our best wishes go to Miss Dougan and Mrs Birt who were dedicated members of staff - you will be missed.

Many thanks to Mrs Mason, our school secretary, for the professional and yet cheerful execution of the many administrative tasks that education today demands; thanks also to Mr Martin (building supervisor) and the cleaning staff, to Mrs Butler and the kitchen staff, to our team of supervisory assistants and to Mr Carter and Mrs Jones, our school crossing patrol persons.

Thanks to our strong, vibrant Parent-Teacher Association, without whom, many of the social events would not occur. They make the school the extension of the home. They raise much needed resources for the school and charities while providing 'fun times' for the children and opportunities for families to become involved in school life.

Finally, to you the parents/carers, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the interest and support which you continue to show in the life and work of the school.

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

Marion E Meyer

Chairperson, Board of Governors

Appendix 1

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustee Representatives

Mrs M Meyer (Chairperson)
Fr. D Brennan (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr M Wright
Mrs McComiskey

Education Authority Representatives – N E Region

Mr G. Turner
Mr K. McCann

Department of Education Appointee

Mr O. Grehan

Governor Elected by the Teachers

Mrs Niblock

Governor Elected by the Parents

Mr M. Feeney

Principal

Mr Conway (Secretary)

The full Board of Governors met 5 times during the period 1st September 2017 and 31st July 2018.

Appendix 2

TEACHING STAFF

Class	Teacher 2018-2019
YEAR 1A	Miss Taggart
YEAR 1B	Miss Dougan
YEAR 2A	Mrs Kerrs
YEAR 2B	Mrs Ross
YEAR 3A	Mrs McCluskey/ Mrs Reddick(Job Share)
YEAR 3B	Mrs Magee
YEAR 4A	Mrs McIntyre
YEAR 4B	Mrs Birt/ Mrs McConvey (Job Share)
YEAR 5A	Mrs Thompson
YEAR 5B	Mrs Carey
YEAR 6A	Mr McEvoy
YEAR 6B	Mrs Dempsey
YEAR 7A	Ms Walsh/Mrs Nolan (Job Share)
YEAR 7B	Mrs Niblock
SEN Withdrawal Support Teacher	Mrs Reddick

NON TEACHING STAFF

Name	Responsibility.
Mrs Mason	Secretary
Mr Martin	Building Supervisor
Mrs Kennedy	FS Classroom Assistant
Mrs Turner	FS Classroom Assistant
Mrs McAllister	FS Classroom Assistant
Mrs Beggan	FS Classroom Assistant
Mrs O'Hagan	FS Classroom Assistant
Mrs Keenan	Classroom Assistant
Miss Smylie	SEN General Assistant
Mrs Thompson	SEN Classroom Assistant
Mrs McNally	SEN Classroom Assistant
Mrs Turner, Mrs Kennedy, Miss Smylie, Mrs Beggan, Mrs McAllister, Mrs McNally, Mrs O'Hanlon, Miss Kearney, Mr Carter, Mrs O'Hagan, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Tierney.	Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants

Mrs Butler	Head Cook
Mrs McKinstry Mrs Russell Mrs Hynes	Canteen Staff
Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Tierney and A N Other	Cleaning Staff
Mrs Thompson, Mrs McAllister	Breakfast Club
Mr Carter, Mrs Jones	Patrol Persons

Appendix 3

Voluntary Fund (01.09.18-31.08.19)

The school has a Voluntary Fund - details of which can be accessed on request.

Monies in:

- Educational Visit to Carlingford
- Monies contributed to defray costs of other educational visits
- Course Fees
- Monies raised on behalf of various charities
- Sale of Book bags
- Book Fairs
- Sale of Photographs, DVDs
- Ballots at the Christmas and End of Year Show
- Swimming Tuition
- Late Class Fees
- Breakfast Club
- Donation by SVDP
- Grants from Antrim and Newtownabbey Council

Monies out:

- Educational Visit to Carlingford
- Educational Visits (Other)
- Monies Donated to Various Charities
- Purchase of Sundry Items for School
- Payment of Photographs
- Current Account Fees
- DVD Reproduction
- Book Fair Monies
- Valley Leisure Centre – Swimming Tuition
- Transfer of Monies to LMS Account
- Staff Payment (Late Class/ Breakfast Club)
- School Web Site
- School Money
- Annual Playground Equipment Report

CHARITIES SUPPORTED:

Huntington's NI.	£361
Trocáire	£2600
Action Cancer	£50
Total	£3011