



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS**  
**2021/22**

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**6 Glenburn Park, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 5RG**

As a Governor and parent in the school, I have, yet again, been deeply impressed at how the school has continued to negotiate its way through very difficult and complicated days. That our children continue to happily bounce into school is a credit to that threefold relationship of school, parent and child. It is only as we all work together that our children flourish. The past year serves as a testimony to that goal.

Can I thank you as parents for your ongoing support, encouragement and appreciation? I realise that you too, have passed through days carrying those 'grown up' worries that our children are unaware of. I know that your kind words of appreciation have meant a huge amount to our staff. You are the critical link in your children's education. It is your support, interest and encouragement that backs up all that our teachers do in the classroom. So well done! You are doing an excellent job.

Of course, all your work at home would be for nothing if the school environment was poor. But in Mrs Rothwell we have a top class Principal who cares deeply for all her boys and girls, a Senior Leadership Team who are committed to maintaining the highest standards right across the curriculum, a teaching staff who are enthusiastic, hardworking and creative in delivering that curriculum and with classroom assistants, administrative and ancillary staff who ensure our school has a strong sense of community, with a caring and nurturing atmosphere, where our children are happy and safe.

With all this in place, it is no wonder that our children continue to make us very proud in all their achievements. I love the way the school recognises the variety of ways boys and girls can succeed. Ballyholme Primary School gives them all the resources they need and then watches with pride at how each constructs their own achievements.

Can I also express my deep appreciation to my fellow Governors for the hours and hours of work they put in overseeing the smooth running of the school? They too, bring their very best from their different areas of expertise to serve the school. We are fortunate to have the team that we do.

My hope is that we all continue to work as a team so that our children continue to flourish as they prepare to take their place and make their contribution to our world.

Peter Lyle  
Chair of Governors

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 – 2023**

<b>Board Representatives: -</b>	Mrs D Johnston Mrs E Adair
<b>Transferors' Representatives: -</b>	Mr I Bailie Rev S Doogan Rev P Lyle (Chair) Mr N Devlin
<b>Parents' Representatives: -</b>	Mr G Campbell Mr C Moran
<b>Teachers' Representative: -</b>	Mrs L Kennedy
<b>Co-opted: -</b>	Mr D Stewart
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs P Rothwell (Hon Secretary)

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The school year 2021-22 began with the usual flurry of activity, staff training and preparation along with hope that there would be no further periods of school closures. Many restrictions and mitigations were still in place meaning 'class bubbles' had to be maintained which impacted on a return to normal school life.

We welcomed Miss H Stephens to the teaching staff, following Mrs Whiteside's retirement.

During the year, the entire school community had to deal with the impact of Covid-19. This resulted in a constantly changing situation with many pupils and staff needing to self-isolate. However, staff should be commended for the management and development of pupils' learning whether the children were in class or at home. Many aspects of school life had to move online such as assemblies, parent evenings and performances in the autumn and spring terms.

As the year progressed, restrictions eased allowing the re-introduction of educational visits, including the P6 residential to Lorne and the P7 residential to the Share Centre in Lisnaskea. After school activities were also able to recommence with children enjoying opportunities to participate in gymnastics, netball, football, cross country, hockey, athletics, Mandy Makes and Mini Versity.

In the latter part of the year sporting competitions were reintroduced. Teams were entered in football, cross country and hockey events, with all of the children selected giving of their best when representing our school. In the North Down Primary Athletics Championships both our Girls' and Boys' Teams achieved medals as well.

Face to face instrumental tuition also resumed and many of our children achieved high marks in their music examinations. Opportunities for group performances were restricted but it is hoped these can also restart in the next academic year.

Our choirs all had the opportunity to perform for parents and the wider community at a range of events including the Ballyholme Village Christmas Tree Light Switch On, Carol Services in Hamilton Road Baptist Church and Ballyholme Presbyterian Church and our Senior Choir also entertained shoppers in Victoria Square.

However, the highlight of the year had to be our Primary 7 production of 'Around the World in less than 80 minutes'. All the children in P7 were involved and it was amazing to be able to perform to audiences in the school hall over three evenings. This not only provided an opportunity for the children to showcase their talents but gave a sense of optimism for the whole school community that life was returning to normal. The performances were only possible as a result of the collective efforts of the entire staff with support from the P7 parents.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support during the year, particularly with the levels of engagement in your child's learning. We are also indebted to the PTA committee who came up with creative ways to still hold events, raising much needed funds for the school.

While 2021/22 was a challenging year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we were delighted at how our children adjusted to a full year in school and embraced many new opportunities for learning. As we move forward, I trust that we can provide a breadth of experiences for the children to allow them to develop academically, socially and emotionally in order to equip them with the skills required for the future.

## **CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

If there is concern about a child's welfare the relevant contact people are:

1. Designated Teacher – Miss R Taylor
2. Deputy Designated Teachers – Mrs H Stephens, Foundation Stage, Mrs S McFerran, KS1, Mrs L Kennedy, KS2.

## **SCHOOL AIMS**

1. To provide a secure and caring learning environment which promotes respect and co-operation within the school community.
2. To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, which fulfils the requirements of the Education Order.
3. To encourage independence, self-worth and self-discipline in preparation for adult life.
4. To help each child achieve full potential through the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development.
5. To develop high personal standards of work and behaviour.
6. To develop a partnership between home, school and the wider community.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Ballyholme Primary School is a caring school where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

It is a happy school, where all, individually and together, play a part in developing pride in self, in school, in others and work towards developing their potential in becoming responsible future citizens.





## **THE CURRICULUM**

In addition to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, we endeavour to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of responsibility and a respect for the property and feelings of others.

A variety of teaching approaches is adopted, based on practical experience whenever possible, with children working in class, small group and individual situations. All classes go on educational visits, the Primary 6 and 7 classes enjoying residential experiences.

There are 21 classes of mixed ability plus specialist teachers for music and physical education.

The Vice-Principal has responsibility for Pastoral Care, Special Educational Needs and Assessment. Two part-time teachers provide literacy support and several outreach teachers from the Education Authority provide additional teaching for a small number of pupils.

The statutory assessment procedures are in place with each child receiving an Annual Report, and the Primary 7's receiving a Record of Achievement at the end of June. Parents also have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher on 2 formal occasions in the year to discuss progress. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with their child's teacher and the principal is happy to meet with parents who may have a concern about their child's progress or welfare.

## **END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS 2021**

In previous years at the end of each Key Stage pupils have been awarded a 'level' in line with statutory assessment arrangements.

These levels are reported to CCEA who then compare them with all primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the assessment process was suspended and no data was collected.

Due to industrial action many schools have not engaged in the process, hence the data is incomplete and unreliable.

However, teachers continue to assess the children in their class, using a variety of methods, allowing them to plan appropriately for the next stage of the children's learning.

### TO PASTURES NEW

The process of transferring is still unregulated with two separate systems of academic selection being run by Grammar Schools.

While this puts undue pressure on our children, we as a staff try to support them in preparing for the tests. Additional teaching is available for pupils who decide not to take the tests.

In September 2022 our P7 pupils will commence learning in 10 post primary schools.

Bangor Academy	<b>No of Pupils</b> 17	=	19%	St Columbanus College	<b>No of Pupils</b> 10	=	11%
Bangor Grammar	16	=	18%	Strangford College	1	=	1%
Methodist College	1	=	1%	Strathearn	6	=	7%
Campbell College	5	=	6%	Sullivan Upper	6	=	7%
Glenlola Collegiate	19	=	21%	Regent House	8	=	9%

In 2021-22 there were, on average 626 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage being 93%.



**Ballyholme Primary School – General Funds Account**

**2021/22**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank	269.26	Bank	55.59
Post	277.75	Post	171.96
Catering	952.60	Catering	1,458.94
Sports Fees	33.00	Sports Fees	145.00
Educational Visits	37,231.00	Educational Visits	29,272.05
Books/Equipment	10,067.68	Books/Equipment	16,716.34
Swimming	8,257.00	Swimming	5,031.60
Charity	6,121.53	Charity	5,356.28
Music	5,627.50	Music	5,089.00
Miscellaneous	4,889.00	Miscellaneous	3,290.19
School Fund	8,270.00	School Fund	0.00
Breakfast Club	6,437.80	Breakfast Club	5,300.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>175,642.22</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>156,976.06</b>

	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance	18,420.32
Income	175,642.22
Expenditure	156,976.06
<b>Closing Balance July 2018</b>	<b>37,086.48</b>

**BALLYHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DELEGATED BUDGET 2021-22**

Delegated Budget Share (including additional Covid-19 funding)	1,924,020.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff Costs Total	1,706,832.00
Running Costs etc	144,718.00
Carry forward	72,470.00
	1,924,020.00

There is a significant carry forward this year as a result of additional money for the management of Covid-19 being provided for substitute teacher cover, resources, provision of school counselling service and cleaning materials.

However, costs for School Year 2022-23 are set to rise significantly due to increases in staff costs and the overall running costs of the school. Items covered by Covid-19 funding now have to come out of the school budget and along with the increased costs, the carry forward will very quickly be used.

