

ST RONAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWRY



St Ronan's
PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SCHOOL YEAR 2013 - 2014

October 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian.

As Chairman of the Board of Governors of St Ronan's Primary School it is my pleasure and privilege to present the 18th Annual Report of the Board of Governors. This report covers the last school year from September 2013 - August 2014.

I hope this report will help you to understand how the school has grown since 11 April 1994 when our first Reception class pupils were admitted.

The report contains information on issues of general interest. If you require information about your child please contact the school and arrange an appointment with the Principal or the class teacher.

On behalf of the Board of Governors I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued interest.

Yours sincerely

Brian O'Donnell

*Mr Brian O'Donnell
Chairman of the Board of Governors*

**ST RONAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRUSTEES

Mrs M Bell
Mrs A Marley *Vice Chairperson*
Mrs M Billham
Mr B O'Donnell *Chairperson*

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SELB

Mr J Patterson
Mr E Neeson

REPRESENTATIVES OF DENI

Mr J Kitson

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs D Saunders

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs J Burns

SECRETARY

Mr F Dawson *Principal (non voting member)*

STAFFING COMPLEMENT

TEACHING STAFF

Mr F Dawson	Principal
Mrs D Saunders	Primary 1
Miss F Toner	Primary 1
Mrs G Smith	Primary 2
Miss N Dawson	Primary 2
Mrs S Carroll	Primary 3
Mrs S Hutchinson	Primary 3
Mrs A Patterson	Primary 4
Mrs P Farrell	Primary 4
Miss O Cunningham	Primary 5
Mrs C Thornton	Primary 5
Mrs D Quinn	Primary 6
Miss C McDonald	Primary 6
Mr M McIvor	Primary 7
Mrs M Keeley	Primary 7

ANCILLARY STAFF

Mrs C Gordon	School Secretary
Mrs E Morgan	School Secretary
Mr T Feenan	Caretaker
Mrs A Murphy	Cleaner
Mrs J O'Reilly	Cleaner
Mrs M Szabo	Cleaner
Miss V Cowan	Cleaner
Mrs D Black	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs S Forster	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs I Kerr	Supervisory Assistant
Miss A Keeley	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs M McSherry	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs C McConnell	Primary 1 Classroom Assistant (Foundation Stage)
Miss A Keeley	Primary 1 Classroom Assistant (Foundation Stage)
Miss A Bailey	SEN Classroom Assistant
Mrs J McGuigan	Classroom Assistant
Miss L McEvoy	SEN Classroom Assistant
Mrs S Grant	SEN Classroom Assistant
Mrs I Kerr	SEN Domestic Assistant
Mrs M McSherry	SEN Classroom Assistant/Domestic Assistant
Mrs D Black	P2 Classroom Assistant Foundation Stage
Mrs L Byrne	P2 Classroom Assistant Foundation Stage
Mrs S Forster	Classroom Assistant

CHAPLAIN Fr Niall Sheehan (Canon M Hackett)

PUPIL ENROLMENT 392

AGE GROUP Primary 1 - Primary 7

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE 96%

INTRODUCTION

St Ronan's is a Catholic school. The Governors are committed to the aims of Catholic schools and the values of the Church.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. As well as nominees of the Trustees, the Southern Education and Library Board and Department of Education its membership includes an elected parent governor and a teacher governor elected by the teaching staff. The Principal is also a member.

The Board of Governors therefore represents all the main interests concerned with the school. The Governors have particular responsibilities in relation to:

- the curriculum
- the appointment of staff
- admission to the school
- discipline
- buildings
- budget

THE CURRICULUM

When we speak of the curriculum in our Catholic school we mean all the opportunities for learning provided by the school. This includes not only the formal lessons but all the experiences offered to our children by our school ethos and environment. All our curriculum will endeavour to reflect Christ's message.

Each child was offered a formal curriculum which was broadly based and balanced in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

AREAS OF STUDY

Religious Education
Language & Literacy
Numeracy & Number
World Around Us
The Arts (Art & Design/Drama/Music)
Physical Education
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

The day-to-day organisation of the curriculum is the responsibility of the Principal and Staff.

Services of SELB Music Advisers were used to extend and develop the music curriculum.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The children's faith continued to be fostered and developed by:

- * the daily Religious curriculum
- * class Masses
- * school Masses
- * assemblies
- * class prayer services

A whole school assembly was held every Friday. At various times throughout the year a number of special Assemblies were presented by classes. Parents were invited on these special occasions as well as our School Chaplain.

The Religious Co-ordinator and other staff members worked closely with Canon Hackett (in the absence of our school chaplain Fr Sheehan) to enrich the Religious Education curriculum. The Sacraments of First Penance and First Communion were celebrated in Primary 4. A number of our Primary 4 children and their parents took part in the "Do this in Memory of Me" programme organised by the Parish in preparation for making their First Holy Communion. Our seventeenth Confirmation Service which this year was held in St Brigid's Chapel and was preceded by a Service of Light for children, parents and sponsors. This was held in the school assembly hall. Sr Mercedes visited the school for 2 days to review our R. E. Programme. Our third whole school May Procession was held. We were joined by a large group of parents as we processed to St. Clare's Convent and then processed back to the school for the official opening and blessing of our School Grotto by Canon Hackett.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Additional help for children with special educational needs was provided by our Special Needs Classroom Assistants. Children with special educational needs were also catered for within the classroom. We also enlisted the help of Parent Volunteers, students from our local Post Primary Schools as well as students from St Mary's University and the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. Where pupils were diagnosed as having special educational needs the services of the SELB's Special Educational Needs Section were enlisted. All of this was organised by our Special Needs Co-ordinator.

ASSESSMENT/REPORTING

Individual parent/teacher meetings were held in November for P1 – P7. A comprehensive written report was devised and issued to parents in June 2014.

Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils take part in the Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment Key Stage Statutory assessment procedures however due to industrial action by the teaching union no levels were issued for P4-P7 classes during the 2013/14 school year.

SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

Liaison teachers from local post-primary schools visited Primary 7 pupils in relation to the transfer to post primary school and teachers from St Colman's College carried out science workshops for P6 and P7 pupils. Our school extended links with the local community. Over 100 children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 participated in the verse speaking schools section of Newry Feis. Many received medals and certificates and it was an enjoyable and valuable experience. Several classes participated in the Recorder Section of Newry Feis. Our choir also participated in the Feis this year.

Our choir continued to perform on several occasions throughout the school year. They greatly enhanced the Liturgy at First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Services and at all our school masses.

Mrs Farrell's and Mrs Hutchinson's Primary 3 children performed a Christmas Play for the children in Ashgrove Nursery and for their families. Primary 1 children performed a Christmas Nativity Play for their parents, whilst Mrs Keeley's and Mr McIvor's Primary 7 children presented a Christmas Concert for parents and guests on 17 December 2013.

Children took part in a variety of competitions organised by local and national community groups. Several children won prizes in these competitions.

A number of our classes took part in various Art exhibitions and displays organised with 'Sticky Fingers' art group.

A number of our parents continue to be Parent Volunteers and some of them assisted with our school Book Fair held this year as well as providing very enjoyable classes in Irish Dancing.

Our Parents' Association organised several activities which not only raised valuable funds but also brought together our families in a social setting. Our fourth Halloween Fancy Dress Disco was held for P4-P7 children and was a huge success.

The Governors would like to thank all those parents who became actively involved in the life of the school as a result of these initiatives.

EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The theme Education For Mutual Understanding was delivered as a cross curricular theme through the subject areas of:

- * Religion
- * History
- * Geography
- * PDMU

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At St Ronan's we aim to provide a wide range of sporting experiences for our children. These include Athletics, Gaelic football, Netball, Soccer, Swimming, Tag Rugby, Tae Kwon Do and Basketball. Our Gaelic footballers took part in a variety of competitions for both boys and girls with great distinction. Throughout the school year our children participate in a variety of inter-school and cross community activities.

Primary 1 children are now timetabled for three half hour sessions of Physical Education per week. All other classes have two half hour sessions of Physical Education per week. The delivery of the Physical Education curriculum was facilitated by the use of Val Sabin Scheme Key Stage 1 Gymnastics, Dance, Athletics and Games. Key Stage 2 Gymnastics, Dance, Athletics and Games.

Swimming was undertaken by children in Key Stage 2 - Primary 5 to Primary 7.

Our Primary 1-Primary 4 classes are provided with Gaelic coaching as part of the DENI Coaching Initiative by Maccartan McKenna.

Our Primary 6 and Primary 7 classes receive additional coaching from Benny Coulter, Down County Board and Maria Fox, Newry Bosco.

Our thanks go to Maccartan McKenna, Benny Coulter and Maria Fox for their help and coaching.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AUGUST 2013 - JULY 2014

MONTH	INCLUSIVE PERIOD	
	FROM	TO
AUGUST 2013	1	31
SEPTEMBER 2013	-	-
OCTOBER 2013	31	31
NOVEMBER 2013	1	1
NOVEMBER 2013	22	22
DECEMBER 2013	23	31
JANUARY 2014	1	6
FEBRUARY 2014	13	18
MARCH 2014	14	17
APRIL 2014	18	25
MAY 2014	5	5
MAY 2014	23	26
JUNE 2014	30	30
JULY 2014	1	31

FINANCE

Management of Finance was undertaken jointly by BOG, CCMS and SELB, DENI provided additional initial expenditure funding.

SELB Summary of Budget Report

(12 months ended 31 March 2014)

School Budget Share:	£1,082,726
<u>Total Spent to date:</u>	<u>£1,020,732</u>
Provisional Balance	£ 61,994

SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Financial Statement 20 June 2014

Receipts and Payments 1 Sept 2013 – 20 June 2014

These figures are those as per our record of school accounts.

Opening Balance	£ 2739.75cr
Receipts	£ 42888.51
<u>Payments</u>	<u>£ 44374.03</u>
Balance	£ 1254.23 cr

CONCLUSION

The Governors would like to thank all our parents, teachers, ancillary staff, chaplain, pupils and all those associated with St Ronan's.

The Governors are delighted to report that this has proven to be another rewarding year in St Ronan's.