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SCHOOL REVIEW 2017 – YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY.....

Jan 2017

Dear Parents,

Over the past 3 years the school has been continuing to work extremely hard in delivering a high quality education to your children and in bringing to fruition our current School Development Plan.

In order to do this we prioritised the areas that we had to work on, under the following 3 headings:

- "improve learning"
- "raise attainment"
- "close the gender gap"

As a school **we listen** to and **value your feedback** and **suggestions**. Unfortunately our core purpose is teaching and learning, and due to pressures of workload, finances and staffing we cannot act on everything suggested.

As a school we never sit on our laurels. We realise that for our school to be and stay a good school, we must continuously strive for excellence in all we do.

The DE's policy of "Every School, a Good School" stresses the importance of continued improvement and states:

"every school is capable of improvement"

As a School we continue to set challenging educational targets for ourselves so that:

"each child will reach their full potential"

be that in sport, drama, art, academia etc. As parents your support at home is essential in order to help us achieve this goal.

We try to ensure that we offer the highest quality of education to our pupils, helping them to overcome barriers to learning whilst valuing their individuality and uniqueness and developing their own individual talents thus enabling us to attain our goals, within the resources we have available to us. However, year on year, the Department of Education is reducing the funding we have available. This year our direct grant from the Dept. of Education was cut by over £30,000, we also as a public body and with these dwindling resources honour the 3 year 1% public sector pay deal which is resulting in a higher staff wages bill. We also pay the cost for our Spanish tuition and Down Coaching.

We have embraced the changes and challenges of the Revised Curriculum and associated Assessment guidance; the introduction of Every School a Good School and its associated policies such as Read, Count, Succeed.

We have grown as a school and welcomed many new staff and families to our school community but have seen unprecedented cuts in Education funding. This is something that is going to challenge all of us over the next 3years.

During the Academic Year 2016/17 we are reviewing our current School Development Plan (SDP) for 2017 – 2020 and we would like to ask you your views on what we have done well and what we could do better, bearing in mind our staffing levels and very limited funds.

Following this letter you will receive a text with a hyper link, this will allow you to access and complete the online parental Questionnaire, using either a smart (internet enabled) phone, a tablet or a computer. It should take about 20 - 30mins to complete, depending on how detailed a response you wish to make. The questionnaire will ask you to comment on a variety of aspects of school provision.

If you would like a paper questionnaire please contact me at the school ((028) 3026 4996 or info@stronans.newry.ni.sch.uk) and one will be sent home to you.

The information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

The theme of our new School Development Plan is:

“Building Bridges to Excellence”

Your views are extremely important to us and this is your chance to influence our School priorities over the next 3 years, by letting us know what you think we are doing well and what you think we could do better.

I urge all of you to complete this survey.

Yours faithfully

(K. Donaghy)
Principal