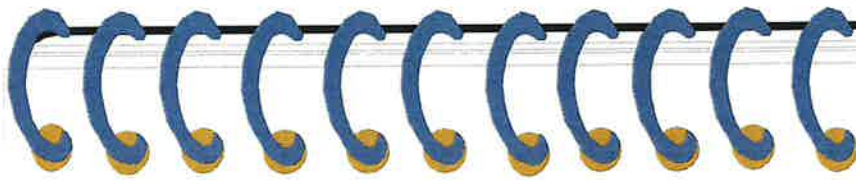


ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

School Year
2022 - 2023



Dear Parents,

In presenting this detailed Governor's Report I wish to point out that it is intended to give you an overall snapshot of the working of the school and how Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing within 5 working days of this report.

I commend the report to you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Darragh

GENERAL AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

To develop the whole child

- **To recognise and appreciate each child's potential and provide opportunities for this to be developed to the full – intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and creatively.**
- **To provide a caring, secure, stimulating and imaginative environment where each child can achieve success and satisfaction.**
- **To help each child acquire a reasoned set of Christian moral beliefs and attitudes thus creating an atmosphere within which children will be encouraged to develop a sense of fair play, tolerance and respect for other peoples' views, attitudes and possessions.**
- **To provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in keeping with the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum (N.I. Curriculum).**
- **To involve the parents, pupils Governors and wider community in the life and work of the school.**
- **To monitor, in a systematic manner, in line with the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (C.C.E.A.) the progress of each child and provide parents with details of their children's achievement on a regular basis, including an arranged meeting and a written report at least once a year.**
- **To promote the professional development of all staff as effective, efficient teachers, through a continuous programme of in-service training.**

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Mr. N. Darragh | c/o Strabane Primary School |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SECRETARY | Mrs. C. Thompson | c/o Strabane Primary School |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. A. Smith | 2023 |
|----------------------|-------------|

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| Mrs. L. Preston | 2023 |
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| Mr. R. Sproule (Vice chair) | 2023 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

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| Mr. N. Darragh | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------|

EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. A. Clarke | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------|

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Mr. R. Cummings | 2023 |
|------------------------|-------------|

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. L. Hamilton | 2023 |
|-------------------------|-------------|

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. P. Canning | 2023 |
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TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. C. McDonnell | 2023 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

PRINCIPAL

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. C. Thompson | (Non voting member) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| NOTE | Each Governor's name is followed by the date on which his/her term of office expires. |
|-------------|--|

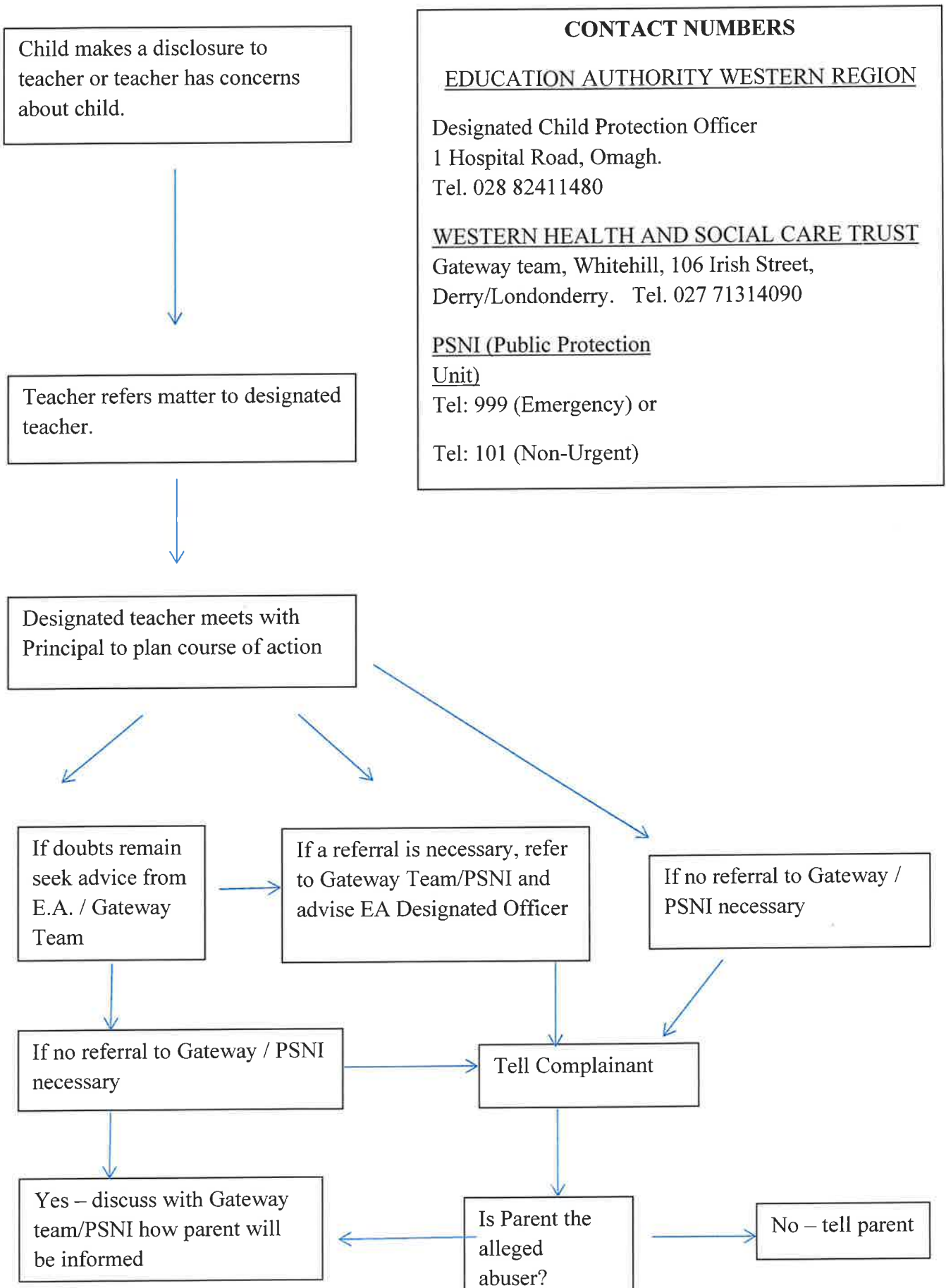
WHAT ARE THEIR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES?

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school.

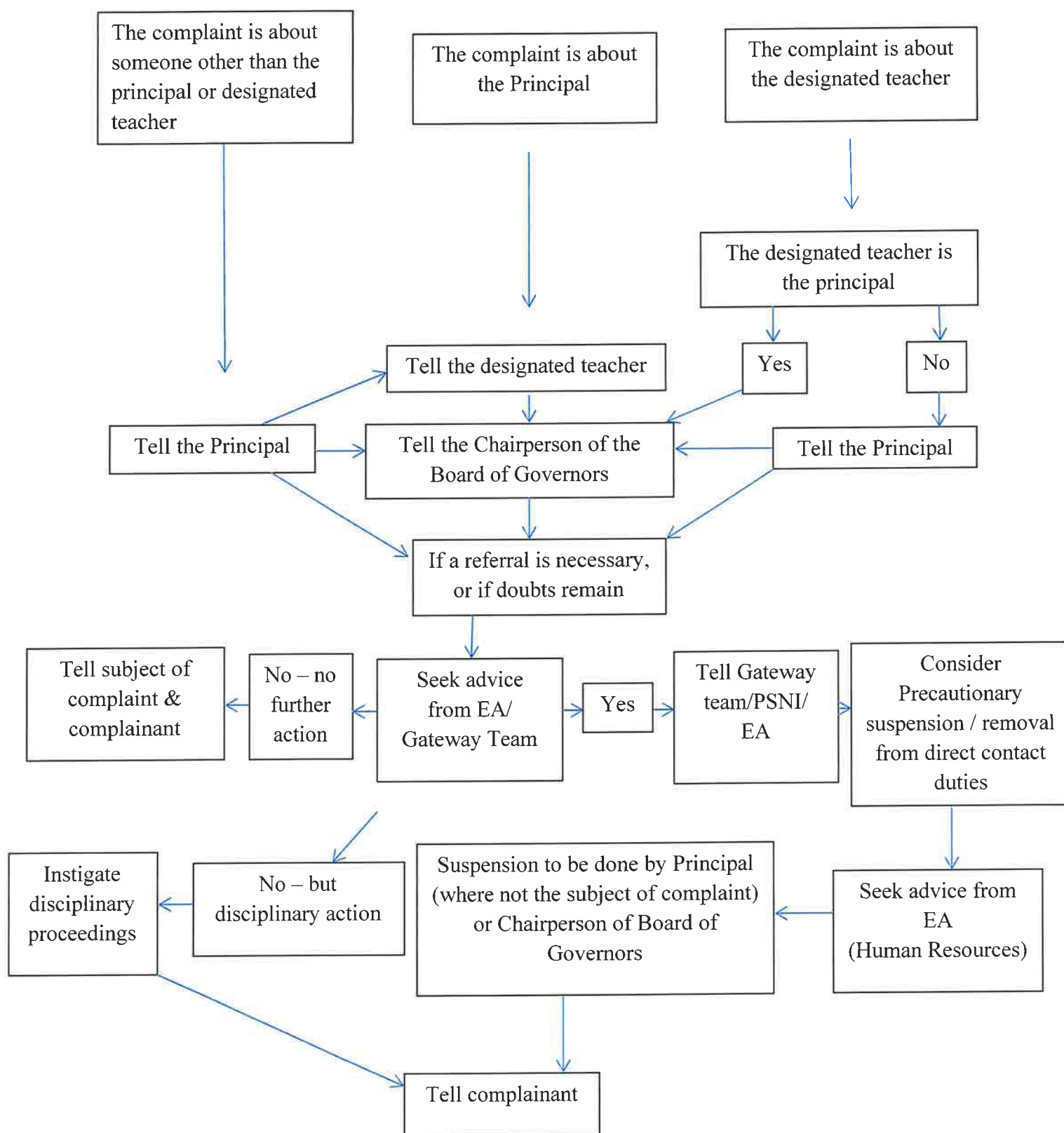
Some of their responsibilities include:

- 1. The oversight of the curriculum**
- 2. Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities**
- 3. Admissions Policy**
- 4. School Maintenance (shared responsibility with EA Western Region)**
- 5. Implementation of new legislation**
- 6. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Shared Education**
- 7. Health and Safety Legislation**
- 8. Financial Management of the school**
- 9. Child Protection Policy**

Procedures where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff



Procedure where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff



Calendar of Events 2022/2023

Term 1

Five Staff Baker Days 24th – 31st August 2022

- 24.8.22 Mrs Thompson NISTR training
- 30.8.22 Child protection and safeguarding training for staff
- 1.9.22 Term 1 commences
- 5.9.22 EA Music begins
- 6.9.22 Y6 swimming 15-week programme commenced
- 8.9.22 EA Literacy support recommenced
 - Teacher for the Deaf visit
- 9.9.22 EA Teacher for the visually impaired visit
- 12.9.22 Highland dancing commenced
 - Extended Schools clubs commenced
 - Mon – Y5, Y6 and Y7 Maths catchup classes
 - Tues – Y4 and Y6 Literacy catchup
 - Wednesday – Y5 catch-up club
- 14.9.22 Healing Hearts counselling for bereaved pupils recommences
- 15.9.22 Musical Pathways to Learning begins for Nursery, Y1 and Y1/2
 - Principal Extended schools' cluster meeting
- 16.9.22 Gardening club commenced
- 19.9.22 School closed for state funeral
- 21.9.22 EWS liaison meeting
- 22.9.22 Principal Extended schools' cluster meeting
 - Strabane Academy student visit to Mrs McDonnell, nursery
 - Staff Meeting
- 23.9.22 Educational Psychologist in school
- 29.9.22 Art Therapist commences
- 30.9.22 POTM Assembly and Attendance awards for 21/22
- 4.10.22 Chanter tuition commences
 - Multi skills extended schools club commences
- 5.10.22 Y4 and Y6 CATs testing commenced.
- 6.10.22 National Poetry Day
- 12.10.22 Eco committee meeting
- 13.10.22 school council meeting
 - Principal Extended schools' cluster meeting
 - Hope NW Y6
- 14.10.22 Y1/2 Scarecrow trail at New Horizons
 - Y5/6 Assembly
- 17.10.22 Speech Therapist commenced in Nursery
- 19.10.22 Foyle Down Syndrome Trust visit
 - Eco committee filmed for Strabane and Derry District council Reduce reuse recycle media launch on Twitter
 - Principal at Extended schools cluster meeting
 - Y6 teacher attended C2k end of life seminar for laptops which are no longer to be supported on C2k.
- 20.10.22 KPMG cyber security workshop for all pupils in Y4 – P7 looking at internet safety
 - Y2/3 assembly
 - SBEW
- 25.10.22 Continued – swimming P6, chanter and Multi-skills sessions.
 - Y7 Confirmation

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| | NWRC winners of the Halloween competition 3 Year 6 pupils |
| | BOGs meeting |
| 26.10.22 | Y7 pupils entered cross country primary school competition |
| | Shared Education Y1/2 with Sion Mills in Strabane Academy |
| | ECO committee meeting |
| | Year 6 and Year 7 Parent Teacher Meetings |
| 27.10.22 | Nursery teacher visit to Little Orchids |
| | KS 1 meeting |
| 28.10.22 | Year 7 Assembly |
| | Year 3 and 4 visit to Strabane Library |
| | Hallowe'en Disco for everyone |
| | Half Term Break |
| 7.11.22 | Book Fair Week |
| | Stranmillis student began her placement in Y 4/5 and Y7 |
| | Y1 SEBW |
| 9.11.22 | SESP Y1/2 |
| | School council meeting |
| | BOGs meeting |
| 11.11.22 | Debutots begins in Y1 and Y1/2 |
| | Y1/2 Assembly |
| 12.11.22 | GL Assessment |
| 14.11.22 | Anti Bullying week - Odd Socks Day |
| 15.11.22 | PSNI community relations delivered 'Stranger Danger and Anti-Bullying workshop to |
| | Nursery, P1 – P7 |
| 16.11.22 | Y1/2 SESP face to face with Sion Mills |
| | Art Therapy continues |
| | Healing Hearts Therapy continues |
| | Cricket Coaching North West Cricket begins weekly for Y3/4 and Y4/5 |
| 17.11.22 | Strabane Principals' Meeting with EA regarding provisioning within SEN. |
| | Year 6 and Year 7 Parent Teacher interviews |
| | Principal attended CSSC AGM |
| 19.11.22 | AQE 1 |
| 22.11.22 | School council met the Mayor in the council chambers |
| 23.11.22 | Y1/2 SESP face to face with Sion Mills |
| 24.11.22 | Y7 SEN Annual Reviews |
| 26.11.22 | AQE 2 |
| 30.11.22 | BoGs AGM |
| | PTFA AGM |
| | POTM Assembly |
| | Y1/2 SESP face to face at Sion Mills |
| | Foyle College principal to visit Y7 |
| 2.12.22 | P1/2 SESP trip to Gortin Glens with Sion Mills |
| | Daily Mile Santa Run, whole school |
| 3.12.22 | AQE 3 |
| 5.12.22 | Tickets on sale for Panto |
| | POTM Assembly |
| 7.12.22 | Y1/2 Speech and Language |
| | Y2/3 visit to Post Office |
| | Nursery 'Sharing From the Start' Virtual meeting with St Catherine's |
| | BoGs Meeting |
| 8.12.22 | Christmas Dinner in school |

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| | Christmas Jumper day |
| 9.12.22 | Mrs McDonnell Early Years Cluster Day Pupils entered Spar Christmas competition – 3 winners |
| 12.12.22 | After School Football concludes for Y4 School Nursing Team – Flu inoculations |
| 13.12.22 | Panto Dress rehearsal Nursery 'Sharing From the Start' visit to St Catherine's |
| 14.12.22 | Pantomime Cinderella show at 2pm with EA instrumentalists Mrs McDonnell Nursery cluster |
| 15.12.22 | Pantomime Cinderella show at 2pm |
| 16.12.22 | Pantomime Cinderella show at 10am Christmas Gardening Club |
| 19.12.22 | School viewing of the pantomime Amazing Journey Programme Year 5 and Year 6 |
| 20.12.22 | Carol service in school Christmas Assembly in school BoGs meeting Fire Drill |
| 21.12.22 | Half Day and end of Term 1 |
| Term 2 | |
| January 2023 | |
| 5.1.23 | Robotics workshop Year 7 begins |
| 6.1.23 | Holy Cross to visit Year 7 |
| 9.1.23 | Relax Kidz programme for 6 weeks Y2/3 and Y3/4 Highland Dancing programme commenced for Yr 7, Y6, Y1 and Y1/2 |
| 10.1.23 | Admission's portal opened for Y1 and Nursery applications Action Mental Health Y7 – Healthy Me Chanter restarts for pupils in Y5, Y6 and Y7 Multi skills coaching for Y2/3 and Y5/6 Y6 swimming concludes Y5 begin after school football |
| 11.1.23 | African Drumming for Y2/3 Y3/4 Y 6 Y 4/5 and Y 1/2 Y 3/4 Shared Education with Sion Mills at the BOG hall ECO committee meeting |
| 12.1.23 | PTFA meeting |
| 13.1.23 | Nursery visit from Early Years Miss Finlay Roots of Empathy with Y2/3 Visit from guests from Peru |
| 16.1.23 | B Ed student week of observation in Y 4/5 and Y7 Paired Reading launched for 4 weeks Strabane Academy visit to Y 7 |
| 17.1.23 | Nursery St Catherine's visit for Sharing from the Start Action Mental Health Y6 – Healthy Me |
| 19.1.23 | New NWRC student commenced placement in Nursery Art therapists continues to deliver sessions |
| 20.1.23 | Eco school Assembly |
| 23.1.23 | Energy Saving Week |
| 24.1.23 | Action Mental Health Y5/6 – Healthy Me School council meeting Y4 Holy Communion classes begin |
| 25.1.23 | Y3/4 Shared Education Sion Mills at Sion |

- 26.1.23 Action Mental Health – Little Healthy Me; Y3/4 and Y2/3
- 27.1.23 'Slip into Slippers' charity day for AgeNI
- 31.1.23 Action Mental Health – Healthy Me Y4/5
- BoGs meeting
- KS 2 Health Me – Action Mental Health

February

Nursery – Year 5 Parent Teacher interviews

- 1.2.23 Y3/4 Shared Education - Strabane Library
- 2.2.23 F and KS 1 Action Mental Health – Little Healthy Me Yr 2/3 & Y 3/4
- BOG subcommittee Selection and Recruitment meeting
- 3.2.23 Gardening club – Yr 7 and Yr 4/5
- Yr 6 and 7 football tournament at Castlederg Highschool
- 4.2.23 AQE results
- 6.2.23 B Ed student placement in Yr 4/5 for 4 weeks
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Week (see timetabled calendar for the week)
- Yr 7 Dental survey
- 7.2.23 Year 7 swimming commences for 15 weeks
- Internet Safety Day
- 8.2.23 Yr 3/4 Shared Education at Strabane Academy
- Board of Governors meeting
- 9.2.23 Robotics Year 7
- Cricket coaching continues
- Little Healthy Me - AMH Yr 2/3 and Yr ¾
- Musical Pathways to Learning continues for Nursery, Year 1 and Year 1/2
- 10.2.23 Yr 4/5 and Yr 5/6 Chinese New Year workshop
- PTFA Valentine's Disco

Half Term Break (Monday 13th – Friday 17th February 2023)

- 20.2.23 Launch of Times Tables Rockstars, Yr 5 – Yr 7
- 21.2.23 Strike until 12 noon – school closed and reopened for the afternoon
- 22.2.23 Baker's visit to Nursery
- Yr 3/4 Shared Education PSNI talk
- 23.2.23 BoG Meeting
- 24.2.23 AMH Little Healthy Me Yr 1 and Yr 1/2
- 28.2.23 Optician visit to Nursery
- Yr 4/5 visit to Strabane Library

March

- 1.3.23 POTM Assembly
- Bereavement counsellor in school
- Yr3/4 Gortin Glen visit for Shared Education
- 2.3.23 World Book Day
- Year 6 visit to Holy Cross for the Talent Show
- 3.3.23 AMH – Little Healthy Me Yr 1 and Yr 1/2
- Principal attended Launch of Learning support centre
- Yr 5/6 Shared Education at Strabane Academy
- 6.3.23 School council meeting
- 8.3.23 World Maths Day
- Year 7 Sentinus 'Bring it on' STEM project
- 10.3.23 Action Mental Health – Little Healthy Me - Yr 1 and Yr 1/2
- Yr 5/6 SESP with Sion Mills

| | |
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| | Nursery – sensory outdoor play |
| 11.3.23 | Yr 7 Confirmation |
| 15.3.23 | Eco committee meeting |
| | SEAG Yr 6 Parent information session in school |
| 16.3.23 | Mother's Day Breakfast in school |
| 22.3.23 | EA Springfest for Yr 5 – Yr 7 |
| 24.3.23 | Stranmillis student Year 1 – placement complete in Year 7. |
| | Yr 5/6 SESP in school with Sion Mills. Guest - Peter from Eco schools |
| 27.3.23 | School photographer |
| 28.3.23 | School photographer |
| | Chanter tuition continues |
| | Core skills coaching continues |
| | School council meeting |
| 30.3.23 | World Autism Acceptance week – Colour Me non uniform day £270 raised |
| | Yr 1 nurse screening |
| | Hope Northwest Year 7 for 4 weeks |
| 31.3.23 | Year 5/6 SESP Sion Mills |
| | Year 7 Strabane Academy Cyber bullying project |
| | Yr 1 nurse screening |
| 3.4.23 | Easter service and leaving event for Harold Kerr upon his retirement |
| 4.4.23 | Fire Drill |
| | Year 4 Holy Communion First confessions in chapel |
| 5.4.23 | End of Term 2 half Day |
| | Easter assembly |

Term 3

| | |
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| 17.4.23 | First Day of Term 3 |
| 20.4.23 | Yr 5/6 SESP in ICT suite with Sion Mills |
| | Art therapist continues |
| 21.4.23 | Year 6 - Cricket Blitz at Strabane Academy |
| | Playground buddies commenced |
| | Nursery – Relax Kidz commenced for the next 4 weeks |
| 24.4.23 | Highland Dancing Exams |
| 26.4.23 | All five teaching unions on strike. School closed to pupils. |
| 27.4.23 | BoGs meeting |
| | Notification to parents of Nursery and Year 1 places for September 2023 |
| | World Daily Mile Day |
| | Jazz Festival – Yr 1 -Yr 7 |
| 28.4.23 | Year 7 - Cricket Blitz at Strabane Academy |
| | Year 5/6 SESP at St Columb's Park |
| | Nursery – Relax Kidz |
| 1.5.23 | School closed for May Day |
| 3.5.23 | Year 4/5 visit to Strabane Library |
| | Hope North West continues |
| 4.5.23 | PTFA Meeting |
| 5.5.23 | Year 7 SESP |
| | Nursery – Relax kidz |
| | Sentinus Yr 3/4 and Yr 1/2 |
| 6.5.23 | Year 4 Holy communion |
| 8.5.23 | King's Coronation – school closed |
| 9.5.23 | Summer testing commenced |
| 10.5.23 | Nursery - Sharing From the Start – trip to Lifford cinema |

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| | BOGs meeting |
| 11.5.23 | EA Literacy support continues |
| 12.5.23 | Year 7 – SESP |
| 16.5.23 | Marty Gormley’s Year 7 girls Netball competition |
| 17.5.23 | Nursery end of year trip to Castlerock Beach |
| | Foyle Hospice counselling continues |
| | Eco Meeting |
| 18.5.23 | School closed for elections |
| 19.5.23 | Cricket teams to Strabane Cricket Club |
| 20.5.23 | Year 7 placement outcomes for post primary |
| 22.5.23 | Eco Committee Assembly |
| 23.5.23 | School council meeting |
| 25.5.23 | Derry Central Library visit to P4/5 |
| 26.5.23 | Year 1 Messy Play session |
| | Year 7 Transition programme |
| | Derry Central Library visit to P3/4 |
| | Rounders tournament begins |
| 29.5.23 | Bank holiday |
| 30.5.23 | School development day 5 |
| | Year 1 induction day |
| | Power washing of school grounds |
| 31.5.23 | Nursery Induction session 1 |
| | Year 7 conclude swimming lessons |
| | Dental Nurse to P1 and P2 |
| 1.6.23 | Nursery Induction session 2 |
| | BoG meeting |
| 2.6.23 | ‘Smash it! Cricket’ Finals Day |
| | SESP Year 7 |
| 5.6.23 | Year 7 to Strabane Academy to complete CATs |
| | Holy Cross transition |
| | Highland Dance Awards |
| 6.6.23 | Marty Gormley Football competition |
| 7.6.23 | Nursery – Big Toddle |
| | Nursery – Debutots |
| 8.6.23 | Year 6 – Pushkin Day out |
| | Year 1 – Summer trip to Gortin |
| 9.6.23 | Year 7 SESP – Oakfire |
| | Year 1 RISE concludes |
| 12.6.23 | Strabane Academy student placements |
| | Autism NI Assembly |
| 13.6.23 | Junior and senior Sports Day |
| 14.6.23 | Year 2/3 to Glenpark |
| | Year 6 Strabane academy extended schools cluster lessons |
| | Year 7s Leavers’ dinner with family |
| 16.6.23 | School closed half day – set up for summer fair |
| | Summer Fair 6 – 8pm |
| | Father’s Day Breakfast in canteen |
| 19.6.23 | Strabane Academy students on placement |
| | Omagh Academy students on placement |
| | Year 7 – Love for Life |
| | Year 7 – Strabane Academy induction session |

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| 20.6.23 | Year 7 Trip to Brunswick Moviebowl and ten pin bowling Year 6 summer trip to Benone Beach and Brunswick Movie bowl Year 4/5 trip to GlenPark Omagh |
| 21.6.23 | ECO Assembly re. Adopt an animal Year 3/4 summer trip to GlenPark Estate |
| 22.6.23 | Year 7 cycling Day with teachers Year 5/6 summer trip to GlenPark Estate |
| 23.6.23 | Year 7 trip to Portrush Playgroup finishes their year Strabane Academy Year 8 Music group visit to Nursery - Gruffalo Year 1/2 summer trip to Lurgybrack |
| 26.6.23 | Reports given out to parents Year 7 trip to Belfast |
| 27.6.23 | Class transition changeover Board of Governors meeting |
| 28.6.23 | Special Retirement Assembly for Mrs Maybin PTFA meeting EGM Strabane council presentation to Yr 5 winner |
| 29.6.23 | Annual Prize Day Year 7 talent show! New Life Art therapy concludes |
| 30.6.23 | School Year concludes Half Day |

2023/2024 commences on 1st September 2023

In service training 2022/2023

Term 1

Staff Baker Days 24th – 31st August 2022

| | |
|---|--|
| 24.8.22 | Mrs Thompson NISTR training |
| 30.8.22 | Child protection and safeguarding training for staff |
| 8.9.22 | 2 SEN CAs at Medical training |
| 20.9.22 | Nine members of staff trained in CPR |
| 26.9.22 | Staff Development Day Shared Education with Sion Mills and SEN training. |
| 28 th – 30 th .9.22 | Miss Finlay Roots of Empathy Training |
| 29.9.22 | SDS visit with principal |
| | Makaton Training for 6 members of staff |
| 30.9.22 | Sion Mills PS Literacy support visit |
| | Principal attended online Whole School Together CYPS training |
| 12.10.22 | Miss Finlay Shared Education Signature Programme |
| 13.10.22 | Miss Finlay and Mrs Allen SMART board training |
| 8.11.22 | Mrs McDonnell – Sharing From the Start |
| 9.11.22 | Mrs Thompson DE pre-school admissions process seminar |
| 10.11.22 | Nerve centre workshop |
| | Y3/4 Scratch, Y5/6 Minecraft |
| 14.11.22 | CFER training for teachers in Y1, Y1/2, Y2/3 & Principal |
| | Miss Finlay 'Operation Encompass' Training |
| 30.11.23 | Mrs McDonnell and Principal Sharing from the Start |
| | Principal attended Education Support Pilot |
| 1.12.22 | Miss Allen CFER training |
| 5.12.22 | Principal attended Extended Schools cluster |
| 7.12.22 | Miss Finlay Shared Education Signature programme (SESP) |

Term 2

January 2023

| | |
|---------|---|
| 4.1.23 | SDD |
| 5.1.23 | Principal's EA pilot programme |
| 20.1.23 | Mrs McDonnell Early Year day |
| 23.1.23 | Safeguarding and child protection training Miss Finlay |
| | Safeguarding and child protection training Mrs Thompson |
| 2.2.23 | Makaton Training Nursery SENCA |
| 7.2.23 | Miss Finlay Roots of Empathy |
| 20.2.23 | Mrs McDonnell Sharing from the Start |
| 22.2.23 | Miss Allen Shared Education |
| 2.3.23 | AOEA – Principal |
| 9.3.23 | C2k Assessment |
| 16.3.23 | Principal attended AOE |
| 21.3.23 | Medical training completed for two CAs |
| 27.3.23 | DTCP attend record keeping and sharing information in schools seminar |
| 28.3.23 | Extended schools cluster |
| 20.4.23 | Mr Gamble SESP |
| 26.4.23 | Principal - AOE |

Term 3

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2.5.23 | CSSC meeting with principal |
| 15.5.23 | Mrs McDonnell Nursery cluster |
| 18.5.23 | Mrs Thompson – conference |
| 19.5.23 | Mrs Thompson – conference |

| | |
|---------|--|
| 25.5.23 | AOEA – Principal |
| 30.5.23 | School development day |
| 5.6.23 | Mrs McDonnell Nursery Sharing from the Start Day |
| | Principal – EA One training |
| 6.6.23 | AOEA – Mrs Thompson |
| 19.6.23 | AOEA – Mrs Thompson |
| | Diabetes training |
| 21.6.23 | Miss Finlay – SESP |
| 22.6.23 | Miss Finlay – Helping Hands refresher training |
| 27.6.23 | AOEA Mrs Thompson |

**2022 -2023 Financial Statement
Strabane PS**

| Strabane PS Financial Year 2022-2023 | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Budget Analysis Income | | | |
| | | | |
| Common Formula Funding Allocation £ | Additional Allocations £ | C/Fwd. 2021- 2022 £ | Total Budget £ |
| 863,723 | 130,792 | 107,220 | 1,101,735 |

| Strabane PS | |
|--|----------------|
| Expenditure 2022-2023 | |
| | £ |
| Teaching Staff | 714,034 |
| Non-Teaching Staff | 171,161 |
| Other Staff Costs e.g. Agency Staff | 496 |
| Premises Costs | 28,196 |
| Operating Costs | 50,133 |
| Non-Capital Purchases | 3,009 |
| Capital Expenditure | 16,720 |
| Income | -9,211 |
| Reallocations | 24,487 |
| | |
| Total Expenditure | 999,025 |
| | |
| C/Fwd. March 2023 | 102,710 |

Audited & found
correct
Notman *[Signature]*
11-10-23

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL FUNDS 2022-2023

| INCOME | EXPENDITURE |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carried over from 2021/22 £1873.97 | |
| Cash for Clobber £209.08 | Bookfair £47.51 |
| Photographer £328.94 | Postage £38.04 |
| Bookfair £2084.60 | Prizes/Gifts £250 |
| Postage £38.04 | Books /Equipment £2084.60 |
| Donations £76.65 | Maintenance £22.98 |
| | Licence Fees £380 |
| | Bank Fees £64.66 |
| Total Income £2737.31 | Total Expenditure £2887.79 |
| Total Resources £4611.28 | Carry Over to 2023-2024 £1723.49 |

SCHOOL TRAVEL FUND

| INCOME | EXPENDITURE |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carried Over from 2021/22 £0 | Historic Scotland £0 |
| Parental Contributions £0 | Translink £0 |
| | Cameras £0 |
| | Bank Fees £0 |
| Total Income £0 | Total Expenditure £0 |
| Total Resources £0 | Balance carried forward £47.57 |

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11-10-23.

REVIEW OF THE 2022/2023 YEAR

Enrolment and Staffing

The healthy trend in enrolment continues. By the end of the year, we had 269 pupils on roll. The Department of Education also turned away 12 applications for Nursery in 22/23. Our teaching compliment including the principal was 11.28 teachers. Our SENCo teacher worked four days per week and an additional SEN teacher also worked three full days per week with children across the school who have additional needs. An Engage teacher was also employed for five full days per week until Easter 2023, when the funding ended. This offered additional support and assistance to pupils requiring interventive measures to support with learning and social emotional and behavioural challenges.

Our school facilitated multiple student placements:

One student teacher from Stranmillis

Two from NWR College of Further Education

Five from Strabane Academy

Two from Holy Cross

Two from Omagh Academy

All of these programmes of placement enabled us to provide a large measure of one-to-one and small group support for many pupils as well as in class assistance under the direction of their teachers thus providing the students with invaluable lifelong experiences in their designated fields.

Ancillary Staff

Once again, the ancillary and auxiliary staff demonstrated their commitment and care for our children in numerous and very practical ways and we must record our grateful thanks to them. Their important contribution continues to help make our school special.

Ancillary Staff

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Executive Officer | 30 hours |
| 2 Classroom Assistants P.1 | 25 hours and 20 hours |
| 1 Classroom Assistant P.2 | 20 hours |
| 12 Classroom Assistants | (Special Needs Allocations) |
| 1 General Medical Assistant | 5 hours |
| 1 SENIS MN Assistant | 10 hours |
| 2 Nursery Assistants | 20/13 hours |
| Caretaker 1 | 21.6 hours |
| Caretaker 2 | 14.4 hours |
| 1 Part-time cleaner | 10 hours |
| 1 Part-time cleaner | 10 hours |
| 1 Part-time cleaner | 9.6 hours |
| 4 Supervisory Assistants | 5 hours each |
| 1 Crossing Patrol | 15 hours |

Parent Teacher & Friends' Association

PTA 2022/2023

Office Bearers

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chair | Michael McCrea |
| Assistant chair | Sarah McKenna |
| Secretary | Louise Macbeth |
| Assistant secretary | Carol Ann Moan |
| Treasurer | Stuart Johnston |
| Assistant treasurer | Ellis Lynch |
| PRO | Michael McCrea |
| Teachers: | Mrs. Thompson, Miss Allen and Mr. Martin, |

Our 'Calendar of Events,' at the centre of this report, demonstrates the school has had another active year. With careful and strategic planning, and with the team effort from the entire school community, we succeeded in running all of our usual events during 22/23. It has allowed us to reinstate the many events which connect us together as a community of people and meet and socialise face to face.

Our annual and very successful Summer Fair and Sports Day were held. We organised two separate events for both the Fair and Sports Day and the events ran smoothly with great fun and enjoyment had by all. The PTFA were very supportive as always. Amongst other events undertaken we had two Draws for the pupils, one at Christmas and one for the summer fair. There was great excitement with a number of top prize winners.

At Christmas time, we began to phase our Pantomime back by recording it without an audience and selling it digitally.

Huge thanks to our parents who supported the school's events, bought raffle tickets, purchased Christmas DVDs, contributed significantly to the successful summer fair and freely contributed to the PTFA subscription of £10 per family. We have so much to be thankful for and the fun had by our pupils as well as the benefits as a whole should not be underestimated.

PTFA Funds have been critical in providing our school with the following:

- 2 SMART boards
- 10 laptops
- gave all new Nursery pupils as well as new pupils within P1 – P7, a free high visibility vest
- supplied Gift tokens and plaques for prize day
- funded office and classroom essentials
- funded prizes for Accelerated Reader
- Pantomime recording
- Coach hire for buses for school trips
- Times tables Rockstars awards
- Athletics rewards
- Pupil of the Month award pens
- Petty cash expense for maintenance around the school
- P7 Leaver's End of Year books

We are grateful to our ever-growing list of sponsors and supporters of our school and these can be seen on display at the school entrance.

Finally, we would like to express again, our gratitude to all the parents who attended PTFA meetings, events, supported fundraising efforts and who helped in any way with fund raising. Your support is valued. Thank you too for donations throughout these events and for books sent to school for the purpose of the School Book Fair helping us to raise funds.

Bookfair

We were delighted to have our “Travelling Book Fair” during the year and the annual World Book Day in March. The school’s summer fair had a parent supported bookstall which boasted many high quality, good condition second-hand books for resale. We are indebted to the parents for helping us in this very practical manner. The single greatest benefit of course is that obtained by our children when they see how important reading is and gain quality books to keep for themselves. Thank you again for your support.

Key Stage Assessments 2022/23

Please note that the 2022/2023 data has not been produced externally.

Pantomime

Our pantomime ‘Cinderella’ was performed to packed houses for a Matinee and two late afternoon shows on the 14th, 15th and 16th of December. The children were excellent as always and the experience proved to be a very rewarding one for both audience and performers. To all who came to these performances we would like to express our sincere thanks for contributing to the success of the nights by being such encouraging audiences. Thank you too to our pupils, teachers, parents, PTFA and Mrs Fallows for all the work done both in the build-up and during the live shows. It was a roaring success. Thanks to our instrumentalists and Mrs Simpson for their Musical performance on the opening show. Thanks to Pepper Collective who recorded and produced the DVD for us.

Sport

In addition to the wide variety of sporting activities experienced through the NI curriculum, our pupils were involved in many sporting activities:

- Y7 competed in a local Schools Cross Country Competition
- Football team events at Castlederg and Melvin – after school sessions, tournaments (thanks to parents for supporting and transporting)
- A block of 15 weeks Swimming lessons in Years 6 and 7.
- The much-anticipated return to the In-house rounder’s tournament. Classes from Year 4 – Year 7 were collated with pupils from each of the 4 year groups creating teams. This continues to generate considerable excitement and fun – as well as noise when the winning team was announced! Congratulations to the winners and all who took part.
- Maiden city soccer after school from Y3 – Y7
- Y7 Safe Cycling Awareness
- Y7 Girls Netball team participated in a local netball tournament
- Extended schools’ Multi-skills coaching sessions from Y1 – Y7 teaching and developing the foundational skills in movement and control whilst incorporating skills based activities.

- Highland Dancing ran weekly sessions for all pupils from Nursery – Y7 including assessed exams in April
- Daily Mile Walk for pupils from N – Yr. 7
- Nursery Big Toddle
- Yr. 7 – ziplining, Tree trekking and 10-pin bowling

Yr. 3/4, Yr. 4/5, Y5/6, Y6 and Y7 classes participated in the Northwest Cricket Union School Partnership programme for all during Term 3 including Cricket coaching and competitive Cricket events hosted at a range of venues including Fox Lodge CC, Strabane CC and Bready CC.

Our annual Junior and Senior Sports Day saw the customary large turnout of parents. This added greatly to the success of the event as did the weather which was kind to us on providing a warm and sunny day. Thank you to our local Spar shop who sponsored the event and gave the children a bottle of water and a piece of fruit each.

Extended Schools

With Extended Schools funding we were able to continue with the breakfast club every morning before school 8.15 – 8.45am. Once again our after schools has been able to complement our curricular provision with an 18-week after school Maths Catch up programme for P5, P6 and P7 and Literacy support lessons for pupils in Y4, Y 5 and Y6. We continued the WellComm Speech and Language Toolkit for the nursery and continued the Musical Pathways programme to Nursery, P1 and P1/2. The Accelerated Reading programme continues to be very successful and we have extended this license as well as purchased additional resources here. The senior children were able to avail of the services of 'New Horizons' for our School Gardening club culminating in a stall at the summer fair and as well as 'take homes' for planting. We continued this year to support the needs of our pupils with regard to NewLife Counselling and Art Therapy, supporting those children and their families who need specialised support. Maiden City Soccer delivered After Schools football to classes from Y3 right up to Y7 throughout the school year.

Parental Involvement

As well as general informal meetings parents had with teachers, formal parent interviews took place in October for Y6 and Y7 pupils in February for pupils in N- Y5. There were excellent turnouts at all sets of interviews – thank you for your support. Parents also received a detailed written report about their child's achievement in June. In addition to this P7 pupils were presented with Records of Achievement in front of their parents on Prize Day.

Y4 and Y6 parents were invited to share with their child in the Paired Reading programme with their children. Similarly, our revamped PIN programme now transformed to Times Tales Rockstars gave parents in Y5,6 and 7 opportunities to use educational mathematical games and 'apps' to support their children's mathematical development. Thanks to the PTFA and school funds, parents and children have access to the 'Mathletics' programme in school and at home.

Our Mother's Day and Father's Day breakfasts once again a large number of parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends come along on each occasion. The turnouts were remarkable turn and indicative of the excellent parental support we have. Parents of children in the nursery unit benefited from the WellComm Speech and Language Programme. Our new Initiative, 'Sharing From the Start' in Nursery was an excellent opportunity to not only

engage with our Nursery Parents but also to partner with St Catherine's Nursery in combined activities for our Nursery pupils.

Finally, some parents were again enabled to use the Lexia programme with their children from home. Parents of children entering Nursery and P1 had induction days in June. New pupils within P2 – P7, were inducted according to their starting dates.

Communication with parents continued through the use of the School App, phone calls, face to face meetings, emails, text messaging service, school website and letters during the year.

Music

Special tuition in cello, viola and violin continued to be provided by the EA Western Region face to face by our EA Music Specialist, Mrs N Simpson. Children from Year 1 right through to Year 7 were involved in the Highland Dance programme with Highland Dance exams taking place in April 2023.

Chanter lessons were also taught to pupils who wished to learn this instrument from Y5 – Y7

Musical Pathways to Learning was enjoyed by our Nursery and the Y1 and Y1/2 classes. Jazz Taster sessions were enjoyed and performed to pupils from Y1 – Y7 to coincide with the Jazz Festival. The annual Strabane Rotary Choir Competition continues to be postponed.

Assemblies were conducted as normal with themes included in our assemblies. We enjoyed hymns played and topical assemblies including class assemblies, Harvest, Christmas carols and Easter.

African drumming sessions were also enjoyed by our pupils experiencing the thrill of handling and learning how to play the African drums through a workshop.

Thanks to the PTFA, a number of Discos were thoroughly enjoyed throughout the year too raising money for charity and school funds.

Our Nursery, P1 and P1/2 pupils again experienced the innovative music programme called '**Musical Pathways to Learning**'. In addition to improving musical skills children's attention and listening skills including their capacity to distinguish between sounds was enhanced. All classes enjoyed significant benefits and the children's engagement was excellent especially now that it is face to face.

Curriculum

As you can see from the information set out in the school calendar, staff in service training continues to be delivered, some face to face but the majority online.

Training provided aims to update and extend staff expertise and experience in new areas of professional learning whilst updating current knowledge. Information gleaned by teachers at INSETs is disseminated to staff during School Development Days, Exceptional closure days, Baker days and staff meetings. Of particular note is the extensive and additional training taken to upskill staff in areas of additional needs, teaching and learning.

Training continues on training staff to overcome pupils' barriers to learning, develop knowledge of Special educational and additional needs, support children with medical conditions and promoting Shared Education.

In **Mathematics** teachers and pupils continue to use 'Mathletics' (P2-P7) and have extended their use of this at home. The average time spent online per student in Mathletics for the 2022/2023 year was on average 53 minutes per pupil per month. It continues to be an integral and invaluable resource both for home and school, reinforcing learning and new teaching. Teachers are assigning tasks regularly as homework activities and pupils are using the programme to receive the benefits it offers. The point system has been an effective incentive for pupils in Key Stage 2. There was whole school participation in World Maths Day, 8th March 2023.

All teachers completed Numeracy based targets and incorporated ideas/resources into their classroom teaching. Under the following headings:

- To promote the teaching & learning of Mathematics through Outdoor Play.
- To implement and embed Mental Maths.
- To develop the use and understanding of Maths vocabulary.
- To continue to maintain/improve standards in Maths

Three pupils in Year 5 reached 58 000 and 63 000 points respectively whilst three pupils in Year 7 reached 51 000, 54 000 and a tremendous 113 000!

The Maths Catch up programme was available for pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7 supporting areas for development in Maths whilst improving confidence and standards. Data demonstrated 77% of children who participated in this programme, improved their PTM score.

Year 4-7 pupils on average achieved in line with their ability or above – 87.5%

In **Literacy** teachers continued to use the highly motivational Accelerated Reader programme throughout KS2. We had 14 millionaires during the year in Years 5, 6 and 7 with four students achieving 2 million and two more achieving an astounding 3 million plus target.

Talking and Listening Scheme is clearly integrated into all aspects of Literacy development and language acquisition in all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on linking language development to outdoor learning.

Y4/5 and Y5 pupils took part in Roald Dahl Day in September. Reading Catch up classes took place for Years 4, 5 and 6 pupils. Our Literacy Co-ordinator delivered the Literacy Service EA training to classroom assistants on 'Understanding the Alphabet'. Classes took part in National Poetry Day in October including participation in the BBC live lesson by older pupils. FS+KS1 took part in EA training on Spelling Strategies. The Y3/4 class visited the local library for Hallowe'en storytelling. The Book Fair was held in school in November with £2084 worth of books sold, generating commission of £1133 to be spent on books for the school. Book related competitions took place in each class. New reading material was purchased for Y1-Y3, including PM starters and Oxford Reading Tree. Speech Link, Language Link was used in the Year 1 class. The Paired Reading Programme for Y4 and Y6 took place in January running for four weeks. In February, the Y3/Y4 class visited the local

library as part of Shared Education programme, under the theme of 'Fairy-tale'. Classes took part in 'Dear Time', where the older children read to younger children during Health and Wellbeing Week. In March we enjoyed World Book Day activities and dress-up opportunities. The Y4/5 class visited the local library with a particular focus on fiction material. An employee of Libraries NI visited Year 4/5 and Year 3/4 encouraging children to take part in the Big Read Summer Challenge- 'Ready, Steady, Read.' Finally, in June Mr Martin's class experienced a Pushkin Trust Workshops Day and we had a Book Stall at our annual Summer Fair. WE celebrated eleven Year 5 pupils who had their monster poems selected for publication in a Young Writers Book.

ICT

Classes have availed of full use of the ICT suite where all classes are timetabled and make regular use of the excellent facilities we have on offer. A number of new Dell laptops were purchased through the PTFA meaning that pupils have access to 22 computers at any one time, alongside iPads. Every classroom including the Nursery has the new Promethean Smart boards and an additional new board was installed into the ICT suite meaning that teaching resourcing and facilities are ideal now for class and group settings. Two teachers availed of SMART board training alongside the installation of their classroom boards.

Online safety was taught in all classes from Primary 1 – 7 and a wall display highlighting the work carried out was established in the ICT suite. KPMG delivered a cyber security workshop for pupils in Year 4 – 7 considering internet safety.

Educational programmes to support learning including Accelerated Reader, Mathletics, Lexia and Times Tables Rockstars are well embedded throughout the school. Broad and balanced teaching of ICT through the school is evident by wall displays in classrooms and around the school building.

Through the use of Extended schools, we were able to facilitate and promote **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programmes with Sentinus 'Bring it on'. The Nerve centre delivered workshops in Yr. 3/4 on Scratch and Yr. 5/6 on Minecraft

Year 7 experienced a 6-week Robotics programme focusing on **LEGO MINDSTORMS® EV3**. During the Robotics programme the pupils used the LEGO® MINDSTORM Education EV3 Core Set. By combining LEGO® elements with a programmable brick, motors and sensors, students made their own robotic creations. LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 were controlled remotely through Bluetooth using the Commander App which is downloaded to a tablet or smart phone.

During the Robotics programme students had the opportunity to build, control and program the Education EV3 Core Set Rover. Students began by learning simple programs and developing the skills to complete increasingly more difficult tasks using the robots touch, Ultrasonic and colour sensors.

Shared Education

Following the Department of Education's decision that '**Shared Education**' should be an integral part of education in Northern Ireland, our school continues to develop and build upon the previously established partnership with Sion Mills Primary School. The overall aim of the

project is to improve educational standards and reconciliation by enabling schools to work collaboratively more often.

This our seventh year of participation in The Shared Education Project, saw a long-awaited return to pupil contact and shared projects between ourselves at Strabane Controlled PS and our partners in Sion Mill PS. From the guidance provided by EA a cautionary and manageable approach was adopted, to move into an 'education beyond Covid space.'

Effective Leadership - Staff from both schools joined together for 'Reconnection' during a planned staff development day, allowing co-ordinators to update staff on the aims, changes and focuses for Shared Education in line with the Mainstreaming Shared Education Strategy from the Department of Education. Action plans were shared with all stakeholders and the importance of the Pupil Pathway document was highlighted and presented. The Shared Education Hub was displayed, with links also provided for staff. Co-ordinators published joint termly newsletters to inform all members of the school community about the progress and success of Shared Education throughout the year.

High Quality Teaching & Learning - Specific emphasis on Pupil Pathway learning outcomes, in addition to educational targets.

Learner Centred - Strategic planning ensured that a balance of pupils from across each key stage were engaging in shared opportunities throughout the academic year. 4 classes namely Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 5/6 and Year 7, successfully completed topical shared projects across a broad range of curricular areas, with a cumulative total of 226 pupils from Year 1 to 7 engaging in pupil-to-pupil contact. Responses from pupil evaluations show that for all shared projects, over 3/4 of each class reported positively about their shared experiences, including the formation of friendships and the extension of their learning. The educational visits to neutral venues proved to be the most popular within the student voice.

Community Connections - To inform and engage parents in our shared education journey, on-line surveys were distributed to parents of pupils who were targeted for participation in shared activity. Of those returned, all agreed that Shared Education has an important role to play in the development of good relations and is indeed a valuable aspect of their child's education.

This year planned projects made use of community halls, local schools, leisure facilities and resources to enhance delivery and to promote our partnership in the local community.

Outdoor learning was further enhanced under these headings:

- Provision of regular opportunities for all pupils to access the curriculum through planned Outdoor Learning activities.
- Promotion of the health and well-being of all pupils through Outdoor Learning.
- Developing an outdoor area for the teaching and learning of the Arts and procurement of new resources
- Opportunities to share good practice of Outdoor Learning to enhance teaching and learning provision for Mathematics and the development of communication skills.

Pastoral Care

All of the internal elements of the preventative curriculum were successfully delivered over the course of the academic year. In addition to the cross-curricular delivery of PD&MU in all classrooms, with an emphasis on pastoral care, we continued to utilise a monthly thematic approach in conjunction with our pupil of the month awards scheme. All classes participated in the NI Anti-Bullying Week programme, (see School Council).

On a whole school level, all pupils were involved in 'Internet Safety Day' with the theme All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online' Exploring respect and relationships online. Information and age-appropriate activities were shared to ensure key messages were enforced and shared with our pupils.

We were again able to successfully deliver our 'Health & Well Being' Week in school, with the theme of 'Let's Connect':

- with each other
- through The Arts
- on-line
- with the world around us

We continued to avail of the services of New Life Counselling through our highly regarded Art Therapist. We continue to use the excellent and highly experienced team from 'Love for Life' sessions, in the delivery of RSE to the P7 pupils and follow the school's policy for the remaining school year groups.

Finally, with the funding ending for the well acknowledged and worthwhile cycling proficiency training (with Cycle Helmet award), a group of our staff took delivered in-house safe cycling lessons after school for our Year 7s.

Attendance

Parental support also plays a significant part in the good attendance figures. Attendance has been a challenge for some families and we continue to encourage and educate on the importance of good attendance which stands at 91.7% for 2022/2023 which also includes the Nursery. Full attendance certificates for 2022/2023 were given out to four Year 7 pupils, and eight from amongst Year 1 – Year 6 pupils.

Learning Support 2022 - 23

In September 2022 there were 55 children on the Special Needs register at stages 1 – 3 of the New Code of Practice (including 12 pupils who have a statement of SEN and benefit from having the support of a classroom assistant). A further three pupils have since received a statement of SEN during the 2022 – 23 school year.

Pupils are on our SEN register for one or more of the following reasons – Cognition and learning difficulties, Specific learning difficulties, Social, Emotional Behavioural and Wellbeing difficulties, Communication and Social Interaction difficulties; Speech, Language and Communication Needs; Physical difficulties.

Pupils were monitored throughout the year and moved either up or down through the Code of Practice stages according to their level of need. This year six pupils were removed from the register. This is because their needs are now not significant enough to require provision additional to or different from that generally available for all children. Fourteen new names

were added throughout the year (up to September 2022) as concerns were identified. These decisions were agreed by class teachers, SEN teachers and parents and were based on standardised tests scores, teacher's assessment and reports from outside agencies. A separate register is used for those who have medical needs only e.g. food allergy.

Thirty- five pupils were withdrawn from class by the school's two part - time Learning Support teachers to work on literacy, numeracy and social skills. In consultation with the class teacher Education Plans were drawn up with targets which are achievable and measurable (SMART). Work was delivered at an appropriate level, broken down into small steps and taught using a variety of strategies and materials. Throughout the year progress was monitored and assessed and provision was altered accordingly. If a need was evident which could be addressed by one of the outreach support teams, a referral was made to the appropriate outside agency, following consultation with the Educational Psychology service. Parents were kept informed, and they had the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the special needs teachers (by telephone) at least twice during the year, or as required.

Five children were put through the literacy screening process, four of whom met the criteria to receive outreach support. This is one-to one support for an hour each week with a peripatetic teacher provided by the EA.

Outside agencies used by our school include: -

The EA Literacy Service
SENIS (Moderate Learning Difficulties)
EA Language and Communication support
SBEW team Knockavoe Resource Centre, (behaviour and emotional well - being)
PBSP Behaviour Support Telephone Helpline
Speech and Language Services
RISE NI multi-disciplinary team – individual and group support for both child and parents
AAIS Autism Advisory and Intervention Service
Middletown Centre for Autism

These services are under significant pressure and waiting lists are getting longer so it is of great benefit to our pupils that they receive a good level of support within the school.

Some ICT and after school activities which also proved successful in raising standards included: -

Paired Reading Programme
Maths Programme – Times Tables Rockstars
Lexia computer programme (for use at home and in school)
Mathletics computer programme (for use at home and in school)
Extended schools 'Catch Up' clubs for Reading/ Maths
Accelerated Reading Programme.

Throughout the year, staff availed of online training from EA to up-skill in the areas of Autism and Asperger's syndrome, Language, Literacy and SBEW. The Behaviour Support Team and RISE NI continued to provide advice and strategies to help address issues to teachers and classroom assistants throughout the school as needed.

When concerns are raised, close collaboration between SENCo, Principal and Class teachers help us to decide a course of action e.g. referrals or withdrawal support. Additional ability and attainment tests are available to be used by the SENCo on individual children to help gain more information. We remain committed to working towards early identification of pupils' needs throughout the school and we continue to work closely with any relevant agencies so that staff gain fuller understanding of pupils' difficulties, as well as strategies to help support them in school.

Eco-Schools

In September 2022, new Eco-Committee members were elected and presented with Eco-School badges.

After conducting an Environmental Review at the beginning of the year, the pupils devised an Action Plan based on our findings. As a whole, school took part in a range of whole-school initiatives and projects throughout the year.

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed visiting the Pumpkin Patch at New Horizons Garden Centre in October. This helped to develop links with local community whilst also giving pupils the opportunity to spend time outdoors in a new environment.

Pupils from Years 4 to 7 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our school gardening club. With the help of Mrs Smith, Mrs Fallows and staff from New Horizons Garden Centre, they continued to develop our school polytunnel and grew a variety of plants and vegetables.

For the Eco-Schools' Global Awareness topic, a total of 83 shoeboxes were donated to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

On Friday 2nd December, pupils from Nursery to Year 7 took part in "The Daily Mile Santa Run" event. Pupils really enjoyed completing this activity together and received a certificate for their participation. Pupils also thought about the importance of daily exercise and the benefits of this on our mental health and well-being.

In January, pupils and staff took part in Energy Saving Week. The Eco-Committee led an assembly telling us all about the importance of saving energy when possible. Pupils and staff took part in a range of activities in order to help save energy in their homes. An online survey was used to record the activities that everyone took part in and the Eco-Committee analysed the results.

In February, pupils took part in a range of activities linked to Mental Health and Well-being week. These activities linked in very well with our eco work for the year, encouraging pupils to connect with one another and their environment. Pupils spent time connecting to nature through reading books and designing artwork.

On Thursday 27th April, pupils from all classes enjoyed participating in another outdoor activity, the Worldwide Daily Mile Challenge.

In May, pupils from the Eco-Committee were excited to launch our Animal Adoption Project once again, in partnership with Parkview Veterinary Practice. The Eco-Committee launched the project through leading a whole-school assembly. All pupils had the opportunity to vote online for their favourite animal and one animal was chosen for each Key Stage within the school. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about each animal through gaining updates from the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) throughout the new school year.

On the 28th June, the Eco-Committee held their final meeting of the year. They visited the bug hotel, the pond, the polytunnel and the play trail during their meeting, whilst discussing the benefits of their work throughout the year. Well done and thank you to the pupils for all their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year.

School Council

Our school council again have organised and participated in a variety of events, including monthly meetings, fundraising events and discussions centred upon issues of importance to the student body and our school community as a whole.

Firstly, our council members got a taste of real-life council business during Local Democracy Week, when they were invited to visit Strabane District Council chambers and met the Major. School council members posed questions of matters of interest to school and the local community, which were addressed by the major before being bestowed with the honour of wearing the mayoral chains and taking their turns as Chair of the Chamber.

In conjunction with 'Anti-Bullying Week,' the council planned and organised 'Odd Socks Day' with staff and pupils alike adorning a variety of colourful, spotty, stripy, patterned odd socks to commence and promote the thematic week. Furthermore, in the second term school councillors organised a charity event in support of AGE NI, by planning a 'Slip Into Slippers' day. A total of £280 was raised and duly presented to a representative of Age NI during a special assembly.

Finally, in the third term council members were given the honour of presenting special gifts on behalf of pupils past and present, to mark the retirement of two of our long serving members of staff, namely Mr Harold Kerr and Mrs Carmel Maybin.

Extended school's programmes

Extended Schools Services & Activities 2022-2023 have enabled us to run our Breakfast Club five days per week 8.15 – 8.45am. We had our Literacy and Numeracy catchup after schools for pupils in KS 1 and KS 2. New Life Counselling Art therapy was enabled and Counselling took place for pupils and families. Pupils in Year 3 – Year 7 enjoyed after school Football Club run by Maiden City Soccer. Our Horticultural and Environmental Awareness Project took the form of our gardening club intertwined with the ECO Awards for pupils in Year 4/5 up to Year 7. Pupils from Year 1 – Year 7 also availed of Multi-skills physical exercise sessions with our coach. Funds also supported Reading Recovery and the delivery of our Speech and Language Toolkit.

In clustering with other schools in the local learning area, we had the Debutots Drama in Education company for early years for pupils in Year 1 and 1/2 delivering storytelling, rhyme and actions, movement to music etc. Musical Pathways to Learning programme in Years 1, Year 1/2 and Nursery. Robotics delivered to Year 7 and a Transition workshop for Key Stage 2 including Home Economics.

Budget

Full LMS budget expenditure details are provided elsewhere in this report as is information about the school's own accounts. Once again we must acknowledge the fundraising efforts of the PTFA and thank you, the parents, sincerely for the time and energy you put into ensuring the events the PTFA organised were successful. All schools now have to

demonstrate that they are sustainable across a range of criteria. This includes enrolment, finance and educational standards. In all instances our school was once again recognised by the Education Authority as secure.

Health, Safety and Security (including grounds development and maintenance work)

The entire school grounds are secured with a perimeter fence including internal fencing and pedestrian gates to secure the intake and exit of Play Group, Nursery, Junior and Senior pupils throughout the day.

The traffic management of the school continues to await a Minor Works Programme with plans being progressed to reconfigure movement of traffic alongside protection of pedestrian pupils and adults using the car park. A ramp entering and exiting the school grounds is at the main entrance gates which serves as added protection to slow down traffic throughout the premises.

Works were completed on our new School Hygiene room located at the senior wing of the school.

The Mobile classroom situated at the rear of the school which houses the Strabane Community Playgroup was fully refurbished and was significantly invested in by the Education Authority - thank you to the team from EA who undertook and oversaw this project. This included replacing the four main walls, new flooring, fully replaced electrical works, new PVC windows, new doors including a new PVC front entrance door, new heating system, new lighting, freshly concreted walkway, painted inside and outside, new vinyl floor and carpet, new access control, replaced fire doors and emergency exit steps. A very successful project and a lasting job.

The concrete walkway into the Junior entrance of the school was freshly concreted, handrails leading to the backstage entrance were fitted and all railing checked and replaced where necessary.

The three classrooms located on the top floor had new ventilation systems fitted - Mr Gamble's room, Mr Martin's room and the ICT suite.

The heating system which supplies the main school and kitchen has had a complete overhaul with a significant investment from the Education Authority in replacing old and outdated heating appliances and equipment.

Mrs Clarke's classroom has had a new vinyl floor fitted and new blinds.

Our digital CCTV is fully operational. It functions 24 hours a day for overall site security and access control exists on all outside doors. All visitors are required to report to reception and sign in and out. A monitored intruder alarm protects the buildings after working hours and all equipment has security markings. The waste bins are secured away from the building as a fire prevention measure and a fire detection and emergency lighting system alongside an intruder alarm are all in full operation.

The SEP (School Enhancement Programme) is fully underway with plans progressing through the required channels as we proceed to prepare every aspect of the project prior to

breaking grounds. This is a time-consuming process but one which will be worthwhile when the end project is completed.

SMART boards were installed in all of the remaining classrooms including the ICT suite.

Accessibility

To facilitate access arrangements a disabled parking bay is available to blue badge holders (**only**) directly in front of the main entrance and all doors into the school have ramps. The main doors are also equipped with automatic opening apparatus as is the assembly hall. Finally, a chair lift operates to the classrooms on the first floor. This gives all pupils full access to every facility the school has to offer. We have a fully accessible hygiene room including a toilet and wet room built on to the Nursery and a second one built in the main school building.

Nursery

The nursery plans in accordance with the 2018 Northern Ireland Curricular Guidance for Preschool Education.

The WellComm speech and language programme continues to be implemented in the nursery, (funded through Extended Schools), providing speech and language screening and appropriate support for all nursery children. Again, significant improvements were noted among the participants.

For a seventh year, the nursery implemented the DE 'Early Intervention Transformation Programme' Getting Ready To Learn (GRTL). This enabled the nursery to provide each child/family with a home learning pack and the option of accessing resources through a borrow/return scheme. The home learning pack was 'gifted' to each child. Packs included a varied range of resources to support and develop the home learning environment; activity ideas; and key messages/information around the four themes within the programme.

The nursery class also joined with St. Catherine's Primary School to implement the Sharing from the Start Programme. This is a project supported by the European Union Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and offers preschool settings the opportunities to engage in a Shared Education Initiative. The programme aims to improve educational outcomes for young children and build good relations between children and adults from different backgrounds, in early years settings. The project ran through term 1, 2 and 3 during which time, both settings enjoyed hosting their partner setting and engaging in interactive sessions via the interactive whiteboards. Parents, children, and staff from both schools enjoyed a shared trip to the cinema in May. This proved to be a very positive and beneficial project for both settings.

Nursery engaged in 4 sessions with Relax Kids who aim to support children's mental and emotional health and wellbeing with a range of tools and techniques to help calm their body and mind and build confidence and self-esteem.

Little Mess Tyrone provided messy play sessions each term around planned topics including minibeasts and the beach.

Outdoor play has continued to be embraced with the development of an outdoor library area and the nursery teacher taking part in forest school training in June. The nursery class also enjoyed a class trip, by train, to Castlerock beach.

Music was enjoyed through 'Musical Pathways to Learning' sessions, aiming to promote the importance of rhythm and rhyme in early literacy.

Community links once again were embraced throughout the year with visits from Eyewear Opticians, Baker David McKnight, Nurse Henry, Barnardo's Big Toddle Team, and Mrs. Ryan with pupils from Strabane Academy Music Department.

Summary

The Governors continue to be greatly encouraged by the excellent support proffered year in and year out by the PTFA committee in particular and the parents in general. The high esteem which the school is held in by the wider community is also clearly demonstrated by the significant number of sponsors we have for our various activities. We wish you to know that your help is very much appreciated and does indeed make a difference to our children.

We are also delighted that the kitchen continues to maintain its Grade 5 food hygiene rating from environmental health – the highest grade possible – this is an excellent achievement for Mrs Noreen Colhoun and her staff.

Likewise, we wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the principal and staff of the school for the continued high level of commitment and the excellent standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom. The Governors wish to congratulate the principal, teachers, parents and children for their efforts over the past year and commend this report on the life and work of the school to you all.

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL PARENTS' MEETING

November 2022

The Annual Parents' Meeting of Strabane Controlled Primary School took place on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 4.30 p.m. in the school assembly hall.

Numbers Present 9.

The Governor, Mrs Anne Smith, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then asked Mrs Thompson to take the parents through the Annual Report for the 2021/22 school year.

Particular attention was drawn to:

- The large Calendar of Events
- Budget trends and future prospects
- Enrolment and staffing
- The marvellous PTFA achievements and support from stakeholders and the community
- Pupils' academic success and attainment along with pantomime, music, sport, Healthy Lifestyle etc.
- Extended Schools Programme
- Parental Involvement in programmes such as Getting Ready to Learn, PIN, Paired Reading etc.
- Music – range of instrument tuition, MPL, Jo Jingles.
- Learning Support provision
- Work of the School Council and Eco Council
- Variety of staff INSET and curriculum development
- Excellent standards throughout school
- A highlight of the Nursery programmes and links

Mrs Thompson expressed thanks to the Governors for their dedicated commitment to the school and to the parents for their co-operation and help. Similarly, the PTFA was commended for the hard work done over the year especially emerging from the pandemic. The staff was also thanked for the high standards set and the wealth of opportunities provided to the children.

Finally, she informed parents that the school was in a sound position and we could look forward with confidence.

Mrs Thompson then handed back to Mrs Anne Smith for questions.

Mr Johnson queried the healthy financial carry-over and asked if we would be sure to receive this on a year-on-year basis. Mrs Thompson answered in that every time we carry-over a surplus, it

needs to go through a bidding process to ensure DE finance can continue to allow financially stable schools to stay in the black and secure this money for projected spends, in Strabane PS, this is earmarked for the SEP scheme.

As there were no further questions received Mrs Smith closed the meeting at 5 p.m. and handed over to Mr. M. McCrea for the AGM of the PTFA.