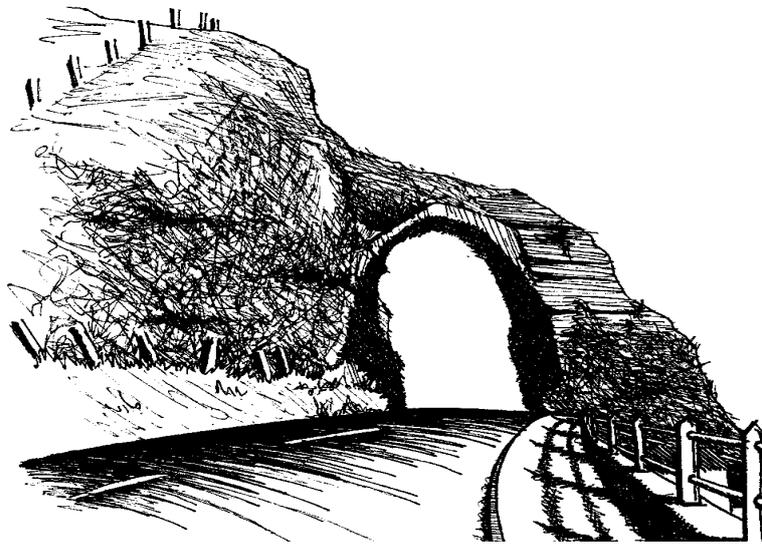


St Patrick's Primary School, Glenariff



Annual Report of the Board of Governors 2022/23

November, 2023

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INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Parents,

As Chairperson of the Board of Governors, I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Annual Report of St Patrick's Primary School. The purpose of the report is to make you aware of what has happened in the school in the last year and to encourage you to become more involved as you are an important partner in the education of your child/children. It is the belief of the Board of Governors that you as parents should be aware of what the school aims to do for your children and what values we want to give them. This report cannot cover every aspect of school activity but gives an overview and I hope you will read it with care. The Report is for the 2022/23 academic year and has been accepted by the Board of Governors.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to pay tribute to all the staff of the school, both teaching and non-teaching, for their high level of dedication, professionalism and achievement over the past year. To all those who contributed in a voluntary capacity, particularly the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA), your endeavours are greatly appreciated as we strive to meet the needs of the children in our care. Similarly, thanks are due to all those who assisted the school either in a professional (outside agencies) capacity or those who visited the school during the year to assist the children's learning. I would also like to thank our Parish Priest, Fr White for his continued support of the school, and to the members of the Board of Governors for their ongoing and generous support of the school.

It has been a particularly successful year for St Patrick's, receiving a third Eco Schools Green Flag and being awarded with the prestigious Take 5 Level 3 for commitment to pupil and staff emotional health and wellbeing. The school show, 'The Wizard of Oz', was a great success and showcased the children's talents. Many of our children had the opportunity to participate on the sporting field including camogie, hurling and netball. Other events of note, to name but a few, included Anti-Bullying Week, Safer Internet Day, and fundraising efforts for our charities.

If you require information about your child, you should feel free to contact the school at any time and arrange an appointment with the Principal Mr Dinsmore or class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Anne Harvey
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. They are required to meet on a minimum of three occasions each year, but in fact they meet more often to discuss and plan for the various events which affect the life of the school. As well as nominees of the Trustees, the Education Authority and the Department of Education, its membership includes an elected parent governor and a teacher elected by the teaching staff. The Principal is a non-voting member.

The Board is involved in all aspects of school life including:

The curriculum

Child Protection/Safeguarding

The management of school finances, resources and buildings

The appointment and dismissal of staff

School Discipline Policy

The implementation of an open enrolment policy

Fostering partnership and involvement of parents in the affairs of the school

Community involvement

Members of the Board of Governors 2022/23

Trustee Representatives: **Rev. Fr. David White (Vice-Chairperson)**
Mrs Patricia Allen
Mr Joe Mitchell
Mrs Mary Rose Black

EA Representatives: **Mrs Kathryn Wheeler**
Mrs Lucy McKillop

DENI Representative: **Mrs Anne Harvey (Chairperson)**

Teacher Representative: **Miss Mairead McQuillan (Secretary)**

Parent Representative: **Mrs Paula McNaughton**

Non-Voting Member: **Mr Mark Dinsmore (Principal)**

Members have undertaken a programme of training in Safeguarding and Child Protection, Finance and Performance Review, Staff Selection and Staff Development. The Board of Governors has delegated to the Principal the day-to-day running of the school.

STAFFING

The members of teaching staff of St Patrick's Primary School are employed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS).

The school's members of non-teaching staff are employed by the Education Authority (EA).

The staffing complement for 2022/23 was 4.4 to include release time for the Principal to carry out their management duties. With these ratios, it was necessary to make some classes composite. Taking into consideration the needs of the children and recommendations from the Department of Education and CCMS, classes were allocated as outlined below.

Principal	Mr M Dinsmore (Acting during the 2022/23 academic year)
------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

Teaching Staff	Primary 1&2	Mrs C McAuley
	Primary 3&4	Mrs A McDaid Miss M Bakewell (1 day per week)
	Primary 5&6	Miss M McQuillan Mrs L Higgins
	Primary 7	Mr M Dinsmore Miss M Bakewell (1 day per week)

Non-Teaching Staff	Classroom Assistant Foundation Stage	Special Needs Classroom Assistant
	Mrs R Darragh	Mrs C Ward
Secretary	Caretaker	Kitchen Supervisor
Mrs J Kerr	Mrs J Kerr	Mrs T Jones

We are also very grateful for the services of Mrs S McAuley from the Education Authority Literacy Service North-Eastern region, who supported a number of our children throughout the year.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE & HOLIDAYS

School Day Begins	Morning Break	Lunch	School Day Ends	
			P1-P2	P3-P7
9.15am	10.50am-11.00am	12.15pm-1.00pm	2.00pm	3.00pm

In order to minimise time spent in a queue for dinner and maximise time spent playing in the playground, the split lunchtime continued: Primary 5-7 had lunch from 12.15-12.35pm and Primary 1-4 had lunch from 12.35-1.00pm. This, combined with 10 minutes morning break, ensured that the children had at least 25-30 minutes exercise each day.

At the beginning of the school year, parents received a list of holidays and throughout the year regular reminders of these dates were announced through the school newsletters, text messages and via the school website.

VISIONARY FRAMEWORK

MOTTO

St Patrick's motto is:

'We are all valued, We always do our best.'

VISION

Our vision as a Catholic school is to ensure:

- Our children show respect and compassion for others, appreciate and celebrate individuality and cultural diversity, and recognise how they can contribute positively to the world we live in.
- Our children enjoy their education, be happy, healthy, safe and secure at school.
- Our children are respectful of themselves, caring and understanding of others and the environment.
- Our children acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to achieve their full potential.
- Our children are inspired to become confident, enthusiastic, independent, resilient and lifelong learners fully prepared for the ever changing world.
- Our children are provided with an education which enables every child to be proud of their learning and achievements, and celebrates their successes.
- Our children are encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle and appreciate their environment.
- Positive relationships are fostered between St Patrick's Primary School, its parents, and the wider community.
- St Patrick's is viewed as an integral element of the Parish.

MISSION STATEMENT

- We provide a caring school, working in partnership with our parents and the wider parish community to nurture and support all the children in our care.
- We enrich the Catholic lives of each pupil by offering a religious programme and sacramental preparation, which will support parents in passing on their faith.
- The care, welfare and safety of each child in our school is of paramount importance.
- We provide a positive, purposeful, child-centred climate in our school, characterised by mutual respect and trust.
- We value our children for their individuality, culture and diversity.
- We promote positive behaviour within the school through a supportive and caring environment based on respect, cooperation and self-discipline and where all members of the school community are valued as equals.
- We support all our children to reach their full potential and become lifelong learners through delivering a modern, active, challenging broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring high academic standards.
- Our staff have high expectations for our children demonstrated through effective teaching and learning, providing a rich and stimulating learning environment throughout our school and by participating in Continuous Professional Development.
- We are committed to providing an education which enables every child to be proud of their learning, achievement and attainments.
- We ensure an effective learning partnership between school, home and the wider community.

- We encourage a positive and healthy lifestyle by promoting healthy eating, physical activity, emotional wellbeing, personal and physical development through the school's curriculum and after-school programme.
- We enable children to develop their awareness of safety and personal development through our preventative curriculum.
- Through our strong community ethos, St Patrick's Primary School has been, and will continue to be, a source of pride for the school and wider community.
- Everyone within our school community is valued and respected.
- The success of our school depends on good cooperation between pupils, parents, governors, staff and the wider community.

CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM DEFINITION

The Statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum is the programme of learning which includes all the experiences, planned and unplanned, which takes place while the children are in the school's care. The curriculum was introduced to schools in 2007/08 and applies to all 12 years of compulsory education to include both Primary and Post Primary.

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

The Board of Governors oversee the curriculum with Mr Dinsmore (Principal), who has overall responsibility for the curriculum on a day-to-day basis. It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. To this end the school has implemented the statutory requirements of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum in Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, the Arts, the World Around Us, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, Physical Development and Religious Education. The Department of Education have also set targets relating to the knowledge, skills and understanding which pupils are expected to have at various stages of their school life and have determined what the school should teach pupils at various stages. Policies and schemes have been implemented to ensure progression from Primary 1 to Primary 7 and they are constantly under review.

The Curriculum is not just about formal lessons. It includes all the opportunities for learning provided by the school including sport, music, cultural activities, educational field trips etc. In support of the curriculum the school offers educational opportunities to the children and invites various experts into the classroom to enhance our children's learning.

In a Catholic school such as ours the teaching and expression of our Catholic values are also important elements of the curriculum.

The curriculum is:

- Delivered in a manner which ensures that each pupil feels valued and
- Designed to allow for the fullest possible development of each individual pupil.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The school implements and reviews a three-year School Development Plan and has put in place an interim plan, setting out the targets and priorities for next year 2023-24. The School Development Plan 2022-23 was reviewed by staff throughout the year and future actions have been identified to enable continuous school improvement.

Teachers set targets within their classrooms for groups and some individual pupils and receive support from colleagues, senior staff, co-ordinators and the Principal to help achieve these targets. When appropriate the school will seek help from the Education Authority or other agencies to support our work. Parents play a key role in helping their child achieve targets and the school works closely with parents at all times.

We, along with the Principal and Staff, ensure that the school continues to provide high quality education provision through a structured programme of staff development. Listed below are the areas that were the main priorities during the 2022-23 academic year.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Numicon Training for all teaching and non-teaching staff, enhanced use of practical materials to support children, continued use of Mathletics and Mathseeds to consolidate children's learning. Staff continue to use our scheme of work to deliver the curriculum and use Collins Maths resources to stretch and challenge our children.

Language and Literacy

Creation of a new Writing Scheme of Work and continued use of Accelerated Reader and Reading Eggs to support children's learning.

Information and Communication Technology

Coding Training for all teaching staff, the use of Spheros to develop children's coding skills.

The World Around Us

Orienteering Training, third Eco Schools Green Flag, Mrs McDaid received Primary Science Teaching Trust award.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Celebrated Anti-Bullying Week and Safer Internet Day, staff continued use of Project Evolve to help raise awareness of e-safety, one member of staff received training in Fresh Little Minds.

Physical Education

Received sponsorship for new school kits, continued to compete in Cumann na mBunscol events, participated in netball matches, signed up for a new PE Scheme, successful Sports' Day

The Arts

The children of our school in collaboration with Mr Hullabaloo successfully put on a two night show of 'The Wizard of Oz' which was enjoyed by the entire school community.

Leadership and Management

Mr Dinsmore completed the final year of a Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership, which involved attending fortnightly online seminars and completing four assignments on Building Teams and Managing Resources, and Leadership for Learning. Mr Dinsmore has been able to implement learning from his course to the day-to-day and longer-term management of our school.

Mr Dinsmore completed the First Time Principals' course.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Staff reviewed the action planning process and implemented a new action plan template. We continue to set targets at the start of the year, and monitoring at the end of the year demonstrates that our children continue to make progress. We were unable to submit our Key Stage 1 & 2 levels for English, Maths and ICT due to industrial action (see Assessment & Reporting Academic Attainment section below). Pupil, parent and staff surveys were administered to ensure that our stakeholders have the opportunity for their voice to be heard.

School Development Days

The teachers continue to make good use of the five Staff Development Days and five Baker Days to further their professional development. School Development Planning in the year 2022/23 focused on reviewing assessment data and target setting, reviewing coordinator action plans, drafting action plans for the year ahead and receiving training on the action planning process. Teaching staff received coding training and writing training, which included the creation of a new writing scheme of work. All staff received Numicon training and non-teaching staff received training in playground activities. Staff reviewed our online platforms to support pupil learning including Mathseeds, Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Accelerated Reader.

PASTORAL CARE AND SAFEGUARDING

While the school is primarily an institution to further the education of all pupils, it has a duty of care to each pupil commensurate with the care afforded by any normal parent. The Principal, Staff and Governors act in accordance with the requirements of DENI on Safeguarding and Child Protection. The Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher, Principal Mr Dinsmore and the staff made all the relevant changes to the school Safeguarding Policy in order to keep it up-to-date.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a strong emphasis on promoting the emotional wellbeing of both our children and staff. Through funding as part of the Healthy Happy Minds programme, we were able to provide weekly one-to-one counselling to children in our school with parental consent. We continued on our Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing journey with the Northern Trust's Take 5 Programme and were awarded Level 3 status as a result of our many activities and lessons aimed at promoting emotional wellbeing – the highest level available in the programme. We also dedicated one staff meeting per term to staff wellbeing, which included inviting Chris Lindsay from the Northern Trust to deliver a mindfulness session to the staff.

A number of policies were updated including the Drugs Policy, E-Safety Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, COVID-19 Risk Assessment Policy, and a new Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy has been implemented. Staff attended training in Grief Management, Operation Encompass, Emergency First Aid at Work (Level 3), and all staff and governors received Safeguarding Training delivered by Miss McQuillan and E-Safety Awareness Training delivered by Mrs McAuley in August. In April a few parents and children took part in First Aid Training held in the school which was funded through our PTFA and Take 5 programme.

Road safety, Fire Safety, Water Safety, Bullying/Cyber Bullying and Stranger Danger, Internet E-Safety and Farm Safety are among many issues which are continually highlighted at assemblies and class lessons. The whole school community took part in the designated Internet Safety Day to highlight dangers to children and parents when online. Anti-Bullying Week was held in November, with each class focusing on a topic to equip the children with the necessary strategies to cope and ensure they were aware of the persons available to support them, should they need them. The Board of Governors commend the school staff for their efforts to highlight the issue of safety as they consider safety of the children to be paramount at all times.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Needs provision has a very important role in the education of those children who are experiencing learning difficulties. Pupils with Special Educational Needs were identified and placed, if appropriate, on the school's SEN register. Each class teacher gives these children special attention and devises specific Individual Educational Plans to meet their requirements, often with the assistance of the Special Needs Coordinator, Miss McQuillan. These plans are reviewed twice yearly to monitor progress and adapt where required. In general, provision was made within the class, using differentiated work. Some children in Primary 3 and Primary 4 received individual support through our Reading Partners program, delivered by a classroom assistant, Children also benefitted from additional support through the Engage programme – Miss McQuillan supported children during terms 1 & 2 in small group settings.

Outside agencies were involved in providing specific, focused support.

The school continued its involvement with the Regional Integrated Support for Education (RISE), where many outside agencies e.g. Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy etc. have joined together to provide a comprehensive support system for children with specific needs. Three children also accessed the Education Authority Literacy Service(EALS) for weekly support. The Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Service (SENIS) provided a block of support for a child in KS2 in the areas of numeracy and literacy. The Child Adult and Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and EA Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions (PBS&P) offered advice and support to children in our school experiencing emotional wellbeing difficulties. Outreach Support Service for the Visually Impaired have visited the school and provided a comprehensive list to support a child with this medical need. A member of the team carried out an environmental audit.

Issues raised were corrected/adapted eg. yellow paint markings on steps to avoid trip hazards. Recommendations to the layout of the classroom and class seating were followed to ensure the child has equal access to the curriculum and can progress effectively.

Two pupils were assessed by the Educational Psychology Service and received a statement of special Educational Needs. There has also been additional allocation of hours for Special Needs classroom assistants secured.

There has been further implementation of the SEND ACT in school, two members of staff received PLP training.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In a Catholic school such as ours, the teaching and expression of our Catholic values are important elements of the curriculum. There is regular whole school prayer, including assemblies and church services. Our faith very much influences every aspect of the school life. The Religious Education programme Grow in Love is taught throughout the school and reflects the school's commitment to the aims, values and teachings of the Catholic faith, which influences the whole of the curriculum and shapes the daily pattern of school life.

We see it as important that the children are well prepared for the sacraments, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and that these events are made memorable by the liturgy, music and celebration which accompany them. The Primary 3 class participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school in March 2023 with a beautiful service delivered by Fr White. The Primary 4 children celebrated the sacrament of First Holy Communion in May 2023. The Primary 7 class celebrated the Service of Light in April 2023, and they were confirmed in May 2023 with Fr White leading a very meaningful, reverend service. In June 2023 we then celebrated all that the Primary 7 children have achieved throughout their time at St Patrick's Primary School at the Leavers' Mass and wished them all the best for their futures, as they progress onto the next stage of their education. We are truly grateful for the talented Mrs Sylvia McKavanagh playing the piano at each of our services.

Our Primary 7 children attended the "What's Inside?" day in St Mary's Parish Centre with other local primary schools, preparing our children for their transition to secondary education and the changes which lie ahead. Earlier in the year, we had special services/celebrations for All Saints, Advent and a week-long celebration of Catholic Schools Week at the beginning of February, which included inviting the Grandparents of our Primary 1&2 children into school and the making of St Brigid's crosses.

We are thankful for all of our friends and families who have celebrated with us in our services throughout the year.

SHARED EDUCATION

Another successful year of Shared Education was completed with all of our children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 participating in the programme. **Primary 1&2** had the opportunity to develop outdoor play through fun and interesting activities at the beach and in the woods, as well as the school grounds. The **Primary 3&4** children developed their writing through poetry, which included a visit to the beach and gathering material to support their ideas. The **Primary 5&6** children took part in online Mathletics in term 1 mixing-up in teams with our partner schools. The **Primary 7** children shared some work on Coding with our partner schools as they learned how to use Spheros.

Staff from our partner schools also shared training in coding and writing.

GDPR

Parents' and pupils' privacy notices were again made available on the school website. Consent Guidance and General Consent & photographs/footage forms were issued to and signed by new Primary 1 parents at the start of the year and any new families who joined the school.

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT

Assessment of children's work is an integral part of our school. The main purpose of assessment is to establish, through a variety of means, what each child is able to do and to assist the teacher to plan appropriate tasks for each child to meet their targets.

St Patrick's Primary School uses formal testing methods to assess each child's attainment and provide information for the class teacher, the child and parents to inform future teaching and learning. Teachers also use informal assessment techniques in the classroom, such as the monitoring and evaluation of work, observations, effective questioning, traffic lights etc. to ensure children continue to make progress.

The main standardised tests used in St Patrick's are:
GL Progress Test in English (Primary 3 – Primary 7)
GL Progress Test in Maths (Primary 3 – Primary 7)
GL Cognitive Ability Test 4 (Primary 4 & Primary 6)

Whole School GL Assessment Outcomes for English

Description	Below Average	Average	Above Average
National Average	23%	54%	23%
St Patrick's 2020/21	15.8%	61.8%	22.2%
St Patrick's 2021/22	13.4%	56.8%	29.8%
St Patrick's 2022/23	18.4%	50.4%	31.6%

Whole School GL Assessment Outcomes for Maths

Description	Below Average	Average	Above Average
National Average	23%	54%	23%
St Patrick's 2020/21	17.2%	57.8%	25.6%
St Patrick's 2021/22	21.2%	55.6%	25.6%
St Patrick's 2022/23	14.2%	55%	31.2%

End of Key Stage Assessment Primary 4 & Primary 7

Formal CCEA Assessments are undertaken each year at the end of each child's Key Stage in Primary 4 & Primary 7. From these assessments in Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) children are awarded a 'Level of Progression' and again at the end of Key Stage 2 (Primary 7) prior to their transfer to Post-Primary Education. Due to a combination of teacher Industrial Action and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Education have paused formal End of Key Stage Assessments, therefore the opportunities to conduct the assessments were not available. The school will work with the Education Authority in the coming years to refresh training of staff on Levels of Attainment and re-establish the procedures for collection of evidence for future compliance within this area of assessment.

Reporting to Parents

Parents have the opportunity of meeting with their child's class teacher in the first term to discuss pupil progress. This can be carried out face-to-face or via telephone depending on parental preference. Parents may also visit the school at any time to discuss their child's welfare by making a prior arrangement, through the Principal or the school secretary, to meet with the class teacher. At the end of the academic year, a written report is sent home to parents.

ENROLMENT/ATTENDANCE

Class attendance rates are celebrated at assemblies and each term individual awards are given for attendance as well as the end of year award. When the attendance of a pupil is of concern, the school discusses the matter with the parent. The Governors, where applicable, worked closely with the Education Welfare Office in the best interests of the pupils.

	2021/22	2022/23
Enrolment	75	75
Attendance	94.6%	95.4%
Families	58	59
Free School Meals	22	7

CURRICULAR and EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

Health & Fitness

We are very grateful to **Cumann na mBunscol**'s North Antrim Schools Committee who continue to run inter-school hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, and quiz tournaments throughout the year. A special mention to our Primary 6&7 boys who won the hurling plate, with an impressive record of 6 wins and 2 defeats on the day. Well done also to our girls who reached the cup semi-final with only 1 defeat throughout the group stages. Thanks also to Dominic McKinley who provided hurling and camogie coaching for all of our children from Primary 1 – Primary 7 throughout the first part of the year.

We were delighted to see our Primary 6&7 children return to **swimming lessons** in Larne Swimming Pool. This is a great opportunity for our children to develop their confidence in the water.

Sports Day took place in June. It was an enjoyable morning for all of our children with each of them receiving a certificate or medal in recognition of their efforts.

We continued to work in partnership with **Sustrans** to promote active travel in our school, which included officially receiving the Sustrans Gold Award for active travel. The children also took part in Ditch the Dark Day, Walk to School and Cycle to School Weeks, Cycle Skills and Cycling Proficiency, enabling our children to travel actively and ensure they know how to stay safe on the roads. A particularly memorable moment was seeing a number of our Primary 1 children learning to ride their bikes. Thank you to Johnny McCrystal for all of his efforts in this area.

In June we had our **Whole School Walk** in the Forest Park. This opportunity allows the children to appreciate the beauty in our area, take notice of nature, develop their friendships and exercise.

School Council & Eco Council

The School Council and Eco Council continued to make positive contributions to school life, with elections taking place in November 2022. Each class from Primary 4 to Primary 7 had a representation of one boy and one girl on the council. They were a very strong, hardworking group who had great ideas and worked really well together. School Council representatives continued to campaign for the popular Movie Pyjama Night which raised £350 and dress up days.

After School Clubs

A series of afterschool clubs were delivered throughout the year. Mrs McCurry provided netball for the girls, competing successfully in a number of friendlies. Catriona Kerr delivered Mini-Movers, Bernie McAllister and her daughter Maeve delivered Irish, and Amy McAllister took our children for singing.

General

A **Book Fair** was held at the end of January. With the commission, each class was able to obtain extra class reading resources to the value of £97. There was a great variety of books and the event was very well supported by parents. Children also dressed up for World Book Day as their favourite characters – a great way to promote the love of reading.

Jo Mulholland from the **RSPB** did a Big Bird Watch Survey with the children. She explained how to spot different types of birds and how to support them.

The **Armagh Planetarium** came to school with a special inflatable observatory. A great educational resource used to teach our children about space and especially how to spot stars and constellations.

We hosted a special **Family First Aid** night for our Primary 5-Primary 7 children and their families. Those who attended learned some very important first aid skills, including how to perform CPR, how to use a defibrillator, how to deal with choking. Our children also got the chance to '**Meet the Lifeguards**', as they learned all about water safety, particularly at the beach. Our Primary 1&2 children visited the **RLNI** in Cushendall to learn about their work. A number of very useful life skills for our children to know.

Singing, Dancing and Fun

We were so proud of our children's performances in '**The Wizard of Oz**'. They all displayed great dedication and commitment to learning the song words, actions and speaking parts. The staff were so impressed with the talent displayed by the children – who knows, there may have been a few stars of the future on the stage. It was two wonderful nights of entertainment in St Patrick's with a wonderful atmosphere in the school hall. A special thanks to Mr Hullabaloo and Noleen for their patience, enthusiasm and care for our children in the preparation of the shows. As a result of donations on the night, the school raised £920 towards school funds.

Our **Christmas Carol Service** was a great success and was well attended by many governors, parents, grandparents and friends of the school. We are as always very grateful to Sylvia McKavanagh who enhances our performances so beautifully with her musical accompaniment.

We had a 'spooktacular' **Halloween Disco** organised by the PTFA. Our children came to school dressed in their scariest costumes and they all had a 'frightfully' good time. We also had a **silent disco** just before Christmas, using the funds that we were awarded from Glenariff Participatory Funding. This was a very popular event amongst the children and we are grateful for the community for voting for our idea.

To celebrate **St Patrick's Day**, Mrs McCurry, Ciaran Dempsey and Sylvia McKavanagh came into our school for a ceili and we held our popular "Be Seen in Green" day.

The whole school travelled together to the Jet Centre for our **school trip** this year. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and enjoyment of the activities, which including a movie and bowling. As always, the children's behaviour and manners were exemplary and a credit to their school and their families. A special thanks to the PTFA for paying for the trip for our children.

Achievements & Awards

St Patrick's was officially presented with the **Sustrans Gold Award** for active travel in September, having completed the documentation during school closure over the period of lockdown. St Patrick's was one of the

first seven schools in Northern Ireland and one of the first twenty schools in the United Kingdom to receive this award.

St Patrick's Primary School were recognised as a **Take 5 Level 3** school in May – the highest level attainable - due to their commitment to promoting emotional wellbeing within the school for their pupils and teachers. Providing opportunities to promote emotional wellbeing is more important now than ever and our school is committed to continuing on this journey in the years to come, to ensure our pupils and staff are healthy and happy, and equipped with the strategies necessary to cope with an ever challenging world. Special thanks to our wonderful PTFA for all of their support on our Take 5 journey, which included securing funding to the value of £8,950 and organising a special Sand Craft event on Waterfoot Beach.

Everyone in our school is extremely proud of Mrs McDaid on receiving her **Primary Science Teaching Trust Award in June**. This is an award which was greatly deserved as a result of Mrs McDaid's commitment to developing this subject area in our school and is one of only 50 awarded to teachers in Northern Ireland.

This award recognises Mrs McDaid's passion for the World Around Us, her excellence in teaching and her committed leadership in this subject area. Mrs McDaid has also organised science nights and experiments, in our school and invited in specialists to enthuse and inspire our children.

No doubt Mrs McDaid will continue to be positive example in all things STEM and an inspiration to our children and her colleagues for many years to come.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding/ Community Links & Charities

We believe strongly, as part of our Christian ethos, in teaching our children to respect our neighbours, regardless of their differing views or traditions. We believe that before our children can respect others, we must help them to respect themselves, their own property, the property of others and also respect their environment. The children at St. Patrick's Primary School are actively encouraged to care for their environment through our work in Ecoschools and our many recycling projects and litter awareness campaigns. During the year we take part in the Recycling Initiative, 'Cash for Old Clothes' through the Alltex organisation whereby parents and the wider community send in any unwanted clothing, footwear etc. to be reused in developing countries or recycled. The total amount collected by the school through the collection in this school year was £918.

The children avail of every opportunity to meet children from other schools. Over the past five years, staff and pupils have enjoyed taking part in the Peace IV Shared Education initiative, creating links and shared experiences with our partner schools in Bushvalley PS, Stranocum, and St Ciaran's PS, Cushendun. All children in our school from Primary 1 to Primary 7 are involved in Shared Education and we are now also able to develop relationships with colleagues from other schools through sharing School Development Days.

Our nominated charity was Laurel House. We used our Advent raffle to raise funds and our School Council representatives presented a cheque to them during assembly in January 2022. The children enjoyed participating in and helping to organise our charity events. Our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and children who contributed so generously to these very worthy causes.

The school maintains links with the local post primary schools to which the children will transfer. We also maintain links with St Mary's Nursery, Cushendall. The Primary 1 teacher normally visits the Nursery in June every year, to meet the prospective Primary 1 pupils who are starting school in September. Those children also have the opportunity to visit our school for an induction day, so that they have the opportunity to become familiar with their new surroundings and class teacher/classroom assistant prior to beginning in September.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility and control over the management of the school budget. The school budget is calculated by the Education Authority, using a formula which applies to all schools. It is largely determined by the number of pupils attending the school, as well as other factors such as the number of children receiving free meals, the number of children requiring additional help and the size of the school buildings. The following is a brief summary of the school budget.

School Budget 2022/23

Initial Budget	£298,625
Additional Allocations	£9,022
Carry Over 2021/22	£-98,858
Total Budget	£307,647
Expenditure	£372,224
Teaching Staff Costs	£294,571
Non-Teaching Staff Costs	£53,553
Non-Staff Costs	£24,100
Less Income	£10,838
Net Expenditure	£361,386
Carryover 2022/23	-£138,208

School Funds 2022/23

Opening Balance at 1 st September 2022	£3,435.50
Income	£12,326.57
Expenditure	£5,815.81
Closing Balance at 31 st August 2023	£9,946.26

Income

We brought in almost £918 from Alltex recycling and received donations from individuals and some research projects all of which has helped with the smooth running of the school, allowing us to purchase many resources and meet other expenses to enhance the children's learning and their learning environment. £1450 from sponsored walk in Forest Park in June.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from our dedicated PTFA who successfully applied for funding through various grants, both for the school and jointly in partnership with Community groups. These grants have been invaluable in providing the school with many resources and equipment including ICT resources (laptops) and picnic benches, as well as funding afterschool clubs for our children. We have also benefitted from a wonderful disco at Halloween and funding towards school trips and treats for the children.

MAINTENANCE

The school buildings and grounds are currently in good order and only a few minor improvements were required this year. This included the installation of a barrier at the exit to the school grounds to prevent children moving onto the road. Also, the kerbs and steps were painted yellow along the edges to make them easily visible. The caretaker, staff and children take great pride in having a pleasant, well-kept, litter free working environment and share a delight in keeping the school in very good order.

A new wireless system was introduced to school to improve internet access in all areas of the school.

CONCLUSION

We thank you for your support in the 2022/23 school year and hope that this report gives you an overview and insight into all we have accomplished in the school year. The Board of Governors is grateful to all the people who work together to make the school a happy, safe and welcoming place of learning. By working in partnership with our parents, we are better able to meet the needs of the children in our care.