



**Finaghy Primary School  
&  
Finaghy Campus**

**Board of Governors'  
Annual Report**

**2007 / 2008**

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# BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

## Chairman's Introduction

During the year the Board met on 5 occasions, these meetings being supplemented by numerous meetings of our sub-committees and the recruitment process for the vice-principal.

Throughout the period of this report, much of the agenda for discussion focused on enrolment, the introduction of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, Pupil-Profile and Assessment, and efforts to ensure that our mission to place the school and our campus at the heart of the Finaghy community were accomplished.

The year saw Finaghy Campus continue to make a significant contribution to the life and well being of both young and the more mature by improving the aspirations of many in our community. Positive engagement with families, sharing facilities with local community groups and establishing links with local agencies reinforced the position of the school and highlighted its pivotal role in terms of its contribution to personal health and community development.

In October over 300 delegates from across the province attended the "Aspire" conference hosted by the school at the Lagan Island Centre in Lisburn, to share the story of our transition from local primary school to community campus.

We continued to pursue the conversion of the former caretaker's bungalow into a pre-school playgroup, but to date have been frustrated by bureaucracy and funding issues. The governors remain committed to using this resource to best effect for the school campus.

Information on Daycare, SportsZone and all school activities can be found later in the report. It is to the credit of teaching colleagues at Finaghy PS, that they continue to offer an extensive and impressive range of activities, clubs, teams and trips.

The community work of the school continues with over £4000 raised for charity.

It is with regret that I record the departure of two long serving colleagues from the Board. Mrs Lynda Wilson, who also chaired the hardworking Daycare sub-committee, resigned at the end of August and Mrs Dorothy Coates, Vice-Principal and Teacher Governor, left on her retirement from the school.

Our Honorary Bursar Rev. Sam Watson also stepped down after many years of auditing our accounts. Mr. Peter Bell has agreed to undertake this important role.

All played a significant role in the development of our campus and we thank them for their dedicated service.

The governors record their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Principal, Senior Management Team and all the staff to promote the development of the pupils to meet the challenges of growing up in a time of much uncertainty and constant change. The school is well placed to deliver an exciting and broad-based curriculum that will realise the potential of our young citizens.

Peter Breene  
Chairman  
November 2008

## **COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2005-2009**

### **Area Board Representatives**

Mr T Dale (Vice-Chairperson)  
Mr I Maye (Replaced by Mr P Bell, October 2008)

### **Transferors' Representatives**

Mr P Breene (Chairperson)  
Mrs L Wilson (Replaced by Mrs C Idle, January 2009)  
Rev W Davison  
Mrs A Lozowsky

### **Parents' Representatives**

Mrs S Clarke  
Mr H Moffatt

### **Teachers' Representative**

Mrs D Coates (Replaced by Miss J Mawhinney, October 2008)

### **Co-Opted Governors**

Mr C McRoberts  
Mrs R Corbett (From September 2008)

### **Secretary to the Board (non-voting)**

Mr A S Mackay (Principal)

### **Responsibilities of Governors**

- 1 Finance
- 2 Management of Staff
- 3 Admission of pupils
- 4 Curriculum
- 5 Resources

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school rests with the Principal who advises the Board on issues arising.

## **STAFF AND CLASS STRUCTURE 2007-2008**

**Principal** Mr A Mackay  
**Vice-Principal** Mrs D Coates

### **Classes**

P1JL Mrs J Latimer  
P1JG Mrs J Gough  
P1SG Miss S Gray

P2DA Mrs D Adamson  
P2EB Mrs E Brady

P3EBM Mrs E Boomer  
P3OD Mrs O Ditty

P4 AF Mrs A Flanagan  
P4RF Mr R Falls

P5DC Mrs D Coates  
P5AB Mrs A Bell

P6JM Miss J Mawhinney  
P6SG Mrs S Graham

P7RW Mrs R White  
P7KP Mr K Platt

Special Needs &  
Reading Recovery Mrs H Currie

English as Additional Language Mrs C Campbell

Class Assistants Mrs K Langtry  
Mrs A Brown  
Miss L Chisholm  
Miss S Humphries

Secretaries Mrs E Law  
Mrs B Darling

Caretaker Mr T Courtney  
Head Cook Mrs Angela Brown

Daycare Manager Mrs A Brown

## School Activities 2007 / 8

2007/8 saw the continued development of our Community Campus concepts. We now operate as a 'full-service extended school' providing:

- Breakfast Club from 8.00am
- Daycare Centre operating until 6pm throughout the year
- Finaghy SportsZone, open to the community each night and during weekends and holidays
- Public Library
- Evening classes including adult education, recreation classes and youth club.

We can now see a host of benefits for pupils, parents and the wider community developing from our extended school projects as they grow, mature and inter-link with each other. We have become a centre for life-long learning, sport and recreation, creating aspiration within the Finaghy community and beyond.

Our range of extra-curricular activities included sports (football, hockey, athletics, badminton, rugby and cricket), computer club, cookery, fitness and gardening.

Our football team and girls' and boys' hockey teams played in both Belfast and Lisburn leagues and had a very successful year, reaching the semi-finals of several tournaments. The sporting highlight was our annual Sports Day at the Mary Peters Track, which has developed in to a great family day out.

Our music department maintained a choir, string ensemble, percussion group and wind band. They took part in many events within school and a growing number out in the community. The highlight of the year was a summer concert at the Lagan Island Theatre in Lisburn involving all musicians along with 1<sup>st</sup> Old Boys' Silver Band.

Each year group organised educational visits to venues throughout Northern Ireland. In addition, P6 pupils attended a residential experience at Drumalla House and P7 pupils travelled to Edinburgh. In June 15 pupils from our partner school in Berlin visited us, and 15 others attended a 3 day residential at Corrymeela with pupils from our link-school in Stafford.

Our EMU link (Education for Mutual Understanding) with St Anne's PS continued to flourish, with partnership projects between P3, P4, P5 and P7 classes.

Our PTA continued to flourish and provides a vital service for fund raising and the integration of pupils, parents and teachers. See separate report.

## **Teaching and Learning**

2006 brought about the introduction of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum. In 2007/8 this was expanded to years 1,2 4 and 5. Enhanced areas of learning include:

- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities
- Health Education
- Assessment for Learning

In Key Stage 1, in addition to the introduction of more activities to promote independence and discovery-based learning, a new reading scheme and a new scheme for teaching phonics has been introduced. The BELB Linguistic Phonics programme was also implemented.

In Key Stage 2, the Literacy curriculum is being revised to incorporate new activities that reflect the enhanced areas of learning outlined above.

## **Enrolment**

Our Open Morning and Family Fun Day attracted a great attendance and was very effective in promoting the school to potential parents.

By the end of June 2008 our school enrolment had reached 435 pupils, making us one of very few schools with a growing enrolment, at a time of falling birth rates and declining pupil numbers throughout the province.

## Academic Statistics

### End of Key Stage Assessment Results 2007 / 2008

#### Key Stage 1 (P1-P4)

<b>English</b>	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Northern Ireland %	0.43	6.14	53.46	38.44
Finaghy PS %	0	4.84	43.55	51.61

<b>Mathematics</b>	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Northern Ireland %	0.41	5.55	47.83	46.21
Finaghy PS %	0	4.84	36.45	58.71

#### Key Stage 2 (P4-P7)

<b>English</b>	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
NI %	0.06	0.40	2.98	18.50	50.67	27.40
FPS %	0	0	0	21.05	42.11	36.84

<b>Mathematics</b>	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
NI %	0.06	0.42	2.73	16.88	32.97	40.65
FPS %	0	0	0	22.81	35.09	42.11

#### Transfer Procedure

Pupils % achieving A and B grade (N I)	35%
Pupils % achieving A and B grade (Finaghy PS)	75%

#### Attendance and Enrolment Statistics:

Year	Enrolment	Attendance
2007 - 2008		
2006 - 2007	387	94.2%
2005 - 2006	361	94.7%

## **Financial Report**

At time of going to press (November 2008), our Outturn Statement on school finances was not available from BELB.

An amended report, including financial details, will be uploaded to our website as soon as it is made available.

## **Maintenance of Child Protection Records**

Concerns, referrals and contacts with outside agencies maintained and documented as appropriate.

Class teachers received updates throughout the year on a need to know basis.

### **Child Protection**

Mrs Dorothy Coates and Mrs Elaine Boomer served as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Officers for Child Protection. (Mrs R Corbett, Vice Principal, assumed Mrs Coates' role on her retirement, in September 2008)

Governors, Principal and staff were made aware of the requirements of DENI circulars.

#### **Circular 2006/25**

Vetting of school governors

#### **Circular 2006/7**

Acceptable use of the Internet

#### **Circular 2006/8**

Child Protection – Training requirement for School Governors on staff selection and recruitment panels.

Also: Use of pupil and staff images, Extended Schools and Child Protection, Cyberbullying and Disposal of Records schedule.

All policies, circulars and advice circulated to governors and awareness raised with staff.

Mr P Breene, Mr Trevor Date and Mrs Lynda Wilson received Belfast Education and Library Board training in Child Protection Issues.

## **Policy Review and Update**

The policy was reviewed and updated in September 2008.

Next review will take place in September 2009.

Information was received throughout the year from Theresa Moran and Heather Gamble, Child Protection Officer with the Belfast Education and Library Board.

## **Additional Needs**

Mrs H Currie continued in the role as Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in 2007/8

Her role is to identify children who have an additional educational need and liaise with class teachers, parents and outside agencies to ensure adequate provision and to supply and maintain appropriate documentation.

Mrs Currie works alongside the Special Needs classroom assistants and provides ongoing support.

The Reading Recovery programme is delivered to P2 and P3 children and small groups of children in P4-P6 receive additional assistance with literacy skills.

The school works with a BELB psychologist, BELB Peripatetic service and Harberton Outreach to provide individual assistance for children. We also employ a part-time teacher to assist with English as an additional language.

A number of volunteer helpers (parents and grandparents) have undergone training in Reading Partnership and provide excellent support for 25-30 children.

All children with an identified additional need (academic, behavioural, social, medical, physical or emotional) will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is constructed and reviewed on a termly basis in consultation with the teacher, child and his/her parents/guardians.

## **Parent Teacher Association 2007/2008**

The PTA enjoyed another busy and productive year.

The Family Fun Day and Open Morning was a great success in November. Many new parents and children visited the school and PTA members assisted with tours, stalls and catering

Running up to Christmas we supported the School Concert by providing a raffle and refreshments.

Our big fund-raiser for the year was called 'Daft for Craft' which included a week of fun classroom activities involving parents, teachers and, of course, the pupils!

We also helped to organise an interactive family quiz night using the school's wireless voting system, which was very well attended and greatly enjoyed.

Finally, we rounded off the year by helping out at the School Sports Day and running the end of year Bar-b-Que.

The PTA have been delighted to present the School with much needed funds from monies raised at these events. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved for their help, PTA Members, PTA Helpers, Teachers, Staff, businesses in the community and especially the parents and children who came along to support the events with their time and donations.

Looking forward to another great year.

***Harvey Moffatt***

Chairman, PTA

## **Daycare Centre**

Our Daycare Centre continued to expand and develop its services during the year. Managed by Mrs Anita Brown alongside her newly appointed deputy leaders, Mrs Karen Langtry and Miss Lynn Chisholm, the centre has now taken on its 7<sup>th</sup> member of staff.

The centre operates from 2.00pm until 6.00pm term-time, from 8.00am-6.00pm during school holidays and remains open for exceptional school closure days and half-day holidays.

The Daycare Centre is a fully integrated feature of the school, providing an informal yet structured environment in which children are assisted with homeworks and offered a choice of activities including sports, art and craft, IT, toys, games and outdoor play.

During the summer there was an extensive programme of trips out, visiting coaches and special activities.

The facility is run as a community business by a sub-committee of the school's Board of Governors.

In September 2008 Mr Trevor Dale became Chair of the sub-committee, on the retirement of Mrs Lynda Wilson. The sub-committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Mrs Wilson for guiding the centre from its inception and early beginnings, through to its development into the thriving, successful community service that it has become.

### **Trevor Dale**

Chair of Daycare Management Committee

## **Finaghy SportsZone 2007 / 8**

The SportsZone has now been operating successfully for 3 years. During term-time it has doubled the opportunity for pupils to participate in physical activity and broadened the range of sports on offer. It is also used in partnership with other schools for tournaments and competitions, and in conjunction with St Anne's PS during our Education for Mutual Understanding projects.

The SportsZone operates from 5.00pm – 10.00pm as a community sports resource and is often fully booked. The range of user groups includes churches, youth clubs, mini-soccer, dads' team, cross-community projects, coaching clubs and 'works' teams. On Saturdays a 'fun footie' club operates and on Sundays a cross-community soccer league is in residence.

During school holidays a range of clubs and camps operate, including 'Get Hooked' hockey camp, 'Team-Theme' soccer and a Council-sponsored multi-sports week.

Our charging and booking policy enables equality of access for all users and facility administration is conducted by Mrs B Darling in the school office. Income from the SportsZone enables us to employ part-time caretaking staff, secretarial staff and to maintain / replace equipment. In the longer term, savings need to accrue for pitch painting and eventual pitch renewal.

In general, the facility is treated with respect by all users, with virtually no reports of vandalism, or of disruptive / unruly conduct by any user groups. The SportsZone committee are delighted that the facility is proving to be such a major asset for both the school and the wider community.

Big Lottery (our original funders) reported that Finaghy SportsZone is one of the most successful projects of its type within the UK. This has given us great encouragement to continue to develop the project as a core feature of Finaghy Campus.

At the end of last year we received some additional Big Lottery funding for the replacement of football and netball posts, the original sets having worn out through constant use!

### **Colin McRoberts**

Chair of Finaghy SportsZone Management Committee (a sub-committee of Finaghy PS Board of Governors)

## In-Service Training 2007 / 2008

Course	Staff	Facilitator
Revised NI Curriculum	P1, 2 and P5,6 staff	BELB
Revised NI Curriculum	Principal and Learning Coordinator	NI Partnership Board
Linguistic Phonics	KS2 Staff	BELB
INCAS (Computerised Assessment)	P5,6 Staff	NI Partnership Board
Reading Recovery	SENCO	BELB
Special Needs	SENCO	BELB
ICT (new systems training)	ICT Coordinator and Principal	C2K
Curriculum Development	All staff	In-house
Child Protection	CP Officers	BELB

Three members of staff working towards PQH (Professional Qualification for Headship), with a fourth having successfully completed.

Principal and staff successfully completed PRSD (Performance Review and Staff Development) cycle for 2007 / 2008

5 'Baker Days' and 5 'Exceptional Closure' days utilised for developing schemes and policies, planning for Revised NI Curriculum, dissemination of new practice, Literacy development, Special Needs and Child Protection updates, team development and Key Stage meetings.

## School Holidays 2008/9

Autumn Term Starts	Monday 1 September 2008
Staff Training	Friday 24 October 2008
Hallowe'en	Monday 29 October – Friday 31 October 2008
Christmas	Monday 22 December 2008-Monday 5 January 2009
Half-term	Wednesday 11 February - Friday 13 February 2009
Easter	Tuesday 7 April – Friday 17 April 2009
May Day/Half-term	Monday 4 May – Tuesday 5 May 2009
Bank Holiday	Monday 25 May 2009
Summer Term Ends	Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 12.10 pm