



6 Glenburn Park, Bangor, Co. Down. BT20 5RG

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
2017/18**

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Contents	2
2. Chairman's Remarks	3
3. Board of Governors	4
4. Principal's Report	5-6
5. Child Protection	7
6. School Aims/Vision/Curriculum/Assessment	8
7. Curriculum	9
8. Assessment	10
9. To Pastures New	11
10. School Accounts	12-13



6 Glenburn Park, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 5RG

Dear Parent

The past year has been one of transition for the Board of Governors. The Governor cycle which ran from 2014-2018 came to an end. I believe this group saw significant achievements. We saw the school achieve an outstanding grade in a general inspection, and the appointment of Mrs Rothwell as Principal and Miss Taylor as Vice Principal. Any one of these on their own would be considered a major task. To complete them so successfully is something to be proud. I believe the school is reaping the benefits of the high standards and diligence those Governors brought to their term of office.

At the end of 2018 the Governors were reconstituted. We welcomed back Mrs Deborah Johnston who again stepped into the role of Deputy Chair also Mr Ian Bailie, Mr Neil Devlin, Rev Simon Doogan, Mrs Louise Kennedy (as Staff Representative) and Mr Darren Stewart. We also welcomed on new members who bring expertise from their own fields of experience Mr Gavin Campbell, Mrs Emma Dempster and Mr Chris Moran. They have very quickly adapted to their roles and are enthusiastically participating. That brings us up to our full quota once again. In addition, two Governors decided to step down when the previous cycle came to an end. We thank Mrs Gemma Hamilton and Mr Alan Pinkerton for their work in support of the school. It is great that Mr Pinkerton continues to provide history lessons for a variety of classes in the school.

In my last report, I mentioned that Mrs Rothwell inherited the school in an excellent moment. We want to express our admiration and gratitude for the way in which she has taken her role on and inspired the staff and pupils on an ever upward trajectory. Along with Miss Taylor, the Senior Leadership Team, the teaching staff, support staff and ancillary staff the school continues to move forward together with a fantastic team spirit to ensure Ballyholme Primary offers the very best to its most precious resource - your children. The Governors thank you all.

Keep your support going for the school and your children in their education. Together, we can, and are, giving them tremendous preparation for life in an ever more challenging world.

Yours

Rev. Peter Lyle
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2013 – 2017

Board Representatives:-	Mrs D Johnston Mrs G Hamilton
Transferors' Representatives:-	Mr I Bailie Rev S Doogan Rev P Lyle (Chair)
Parents' Representatives:-	Mr N Devlin Mr D Stewart
Teachers' Representative:-	Mrs L Kennedy
Lay Representative:-	Mr A Pinkerton
Principal	Mrs P Rothwell (Hon Secretary)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The School Year 2017-18 began with the usual flurry of activity, staff training and preparation.

During the last week in August teaching staff spent time on various items of training and development including the use of data, reciprocal reading, the use of observations and developing dyslexia friendly classrooms.

We welcomed Mrs D Irvine to the staff as our music specialist and Mr M Thompson and Mrs M Gibson to the teaching staff.

The new school year also saw the commencement of our After School Club, run by the YMCA. We have been delighted that the partnership between school, YMCA and Ballyholme Presbyterian Church has been so successful in providing high quality after school care for our children. This provides a much needed service for our families, demonstrated by the level of demand for places.

There were adjustments made to the timing of the school day to try to facilitate additional planning time for staff to ensure we continue to deliver high quality teaching. The school day was extended to 3pm from Monday to Thursday and finishes at 2.10pm on a Friday.

Due to the current challenging financial climate, we are unable to release staff from class to avail of training as in previous years, so therefore we need to create other opportunities for training and planning, beyond the school day.

All teaching staff have been involved in the provision of after school activities for the children. A wide range of clubs from cookery to drama to sports was provided, with external sport's coaches also being used to enhance the programme.

Throughout the year our pupils enjoyed much sporting success.

Both the girls' and boys' hockey teams reached the Northern Ireland Finals. In football we finished third in the North Down League but were the winners of the John Barrett Cup. Ballyholme Primary again performed exceptionally well in athletics, winning the NI Primary School Sports Hall Athletic trophy and our boys' team retaining the cup in the North Down Championships. Several pupils were selected for the Athletics NI Rising Star Programme.

In cross country, many children braved the elements to compete in a range of events during the year. Special mention must go to JJ Holley who achieved the gold medal in the NI Flahavan's Cross Country League Final in February.

Our gymnastics' teams had a fantastic year, with the Under 11 Boys' Pair of Ben Merriman and Oli Armstrong and the Girls' A Team both winning the gold medal at the British Schools' Gymnastic Championships in Stoke-on-Trent. It is an amazing achievement for Ballyholme Primary to have two sets of British Champions. Thanks must go to Mrs K Grundie for her dedication and commitment, not only in gymnastics but in providing a wide range of opportunities for all our pupils.

This was another successful year for our musicians with many children achieving high marks in the ABRSM music examinations. There were many opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents through performances for parents or the wider community.

In December we held our P1 Nativity and this was enjoyed by parents and Senior Citizens from the local community. Our Senior Choir entertained shoppers at the Bloomfield Centre and also sang at the Christmas lunch event in St Columbans Parish Church.

In April, the Senior Choir were invited to take part in a concert with Donaghadee Male Voice Choir. This was a very enjoyable evening where the children performed beautifully.

However, the highlight of the year has to be our Primary 7 production of the Lion King. All the children in P7 were involved and the school hall was filled to capacity for the three performances. The Lion King not only provided an opportunity for the children to showcase their amazing talents but demonstrated how the entire staff, supported by parents, work together for the benefit of the children.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support during the year through your attendance at curriculum events, provision of transport and engagement with your child's learning. We are also indebted to the PTA committee for organising a range of events which have raised over £10,000 for additional resources. These events have been really well supported and have provided many enjoyable evenings for both children and parents.

The 2017/18 year was another successful year in the life of Ballyholme Primary. As we move forward I trust that we can continue to provide a breadth of experiences for the children to allow them to develop academically, socially and emotionally in order to equip them with the skills they need for the future.

CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION

If there is concern about a child's welfare the relevant contact people are:

1. Designated Teacher – Miss R Taylor
2. Deputy Designated Teachers – Mrs H Stephens, Foundation Stage, Miss V Ferguson, KS1, Mr R Irvine, KS2.

SCHOOL AIMS

1. To provide a secure and caring learning environment which promotes respect and co-operation within the school community.
2. To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, which fulfils the requirements of the Education Order.
3. To encourage independence, self-worth and self-discipline in preparation for adult life.
4. To help each child achieve full potential through the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development.
5. To develop high personal standards of work and behaviour.
6. To develop a partnership between home, school and the wider community.

VISION STATEMENT

Ballyholme Primary School is a caring school where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

It is a happy school, where all, individually and together, play a part in developing pride in self, in school, in others and work towards developing their potential in becoming responsible future citizens.



THE CURRICULUM

In addition to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, we endeavour to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of responsibility and a respect for the property and feelings of others.

A variety of teaching approaches is adopted, based on practical experience whenever possible, with children working in class, small group and individual situations. All classes go on educational visits, the Primary 6 and 7 classes enjoying residential experiences.

There are 21 classes of mixed ability plus specialist teachers for music and physical education.

The Vice-Principal has responsibility for Pastoral Care, Special Educational Needs and Assessment. Two part-time teachers provide literacy support and several outreach teachers from the Education Authority provide additional teaching for a small number of pupils.

The statutory assessment procedures are in place with each child receiving an Annual Report, and the Primary 7's receiving a Record of Achievement at the end of June. Parents also have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher on 2 formal occasions in the year to discuss progress. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with their child's teacher and the principal is happy to meet with parents who may have a concern about their child's progress or welfare.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS 2018

In previous years at the end of each Key Stage pupils have been awarded a 'level' in line with statutory assessment arrangements.

These levels are reported to CCEA who then compare them with all primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Since the introduction of these new levels of progression there have been a number of well publicised criticisms of the new system. The guidance from CCEA that schools were asked to follow during the process has been interpreted differently by individual schools.

Due to industrial action many schools have not engaged in the process, hence the data is incomplete and unreliable.

Governors and staff feel that, at best, the system is confusing and misleading and, at worst, completely unfit for the purpose it was intended.

Therefore, the Governors in Ballyholme Primary School and in other primary schools in the North Down area have taken the decision not to submit these levels to CCEA and also not to issue these levels to parents at the end of June 2018.

Within Ballyholme Primary School we have found value in the process itself which is replacing free standing tests with more natural and ongoing assessment that has been integrated into units of work.

The information from this work is used to inform parent/teacher interviews and the end of year report. We feel this is more meaningful information on your child's progress and achievement than the levels of progression at this stage.

TO PASTURES NEW

The process of transferring is still unregulated with two separate systems of academic selection being run by Grammar Schools.

While this puts undue pressure on our children, we as a staff try to support them in preparing for the tests. Additional teaching is available for pupils who decide not to take the tests.

In September 2018 our P7 pupils will commence learning in 9 post primary schools.

Bangor Academy	No of Pupils 19	=	21%	St Columbanus College	No of Pupils 5	=	6%
Bangor Grammar	14	=	16%	Strangford College	1	=	1%
Bloomfield Collegiate	1	=	1%	Strathearn	6	=	7%
Campbell College	8	=	9%	Sullivan Upper	14	=	16%
Glenlola Collegiate	21	=	23%				

In 2017-2018 there were, on average 626 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage being 96.8%

Ballyholme Primary School – General Funds Account

2017/2018

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Book Fair	2315.61	Book Fair	2315.61
Bank	84554.23	Bank	70472.50
Post	0.01	Post	62.05
Staff Fund	1072.50	Staff Fund	747.33
Catering	636.00	Catering	1626.27
Sports Fees	2456.00	Sports Fees	3918.18
Educational Visits	30315.90	Educational Visits	31057.45
Minibus	2135.54	Minibus	2366.07
Books/Equipment	4025.82	Books/Equipment	15909.77
Swimming	6661.10	Swimming	4624.10
Photographs	-	Photographs	150.00
Charity	6468.79	Charity	4772.72
Music	6175.00	Music	4173.00
Miscellaneous	15752.57	Miscellaneous	15969.58
TOTAL INCOME	162,569.07	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	158,164.63

	£
Opening Balance	14,227.59
Income	162,569.07
Expenditure	158,146.63
Closing Balance July 2018	18,632.03

BALLYHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL

DELEGATED BUDGET 2017-18

Delegated Budget Share (including 16/17 carry forward)	1,647,719.00
Expenditure	
Staff Costs Total	1,475,486.00
Running Costs etc	106,076.00
Carry forward	66,157.00
	1,647,719.00

Costs for School Year 2018-19 are set to rise significantly due to increases in employers' contributions and general running costs.