



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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
2018/2019**

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Dear Parent

This year has been another successful one for the school as staff and pupils continue to excel themselves. I am constantly amazed at the drive and professionalism of our staff to achieve greater levels of excellence each year. They not only give their very best in the classroom I know they also keep long hours in reflection and preparation of the work they do with the pupils and that not counting their extra-curricular involvement. I deeply appreciate their commitment not only as a Governor but also as a parent. On behalf of Governors we also want to thank all of our wonderful support and ancillary staff for all their hard work and the role they play in Ballyholme's success story.

As is common in a school the size of Ballyholme each summer brings a number of staff changes with retirements, teachers moving to new appointments, temporary contracts ending, and new families. The Governors would especially like to place on record our appreciation to Mrs Glynis Allen who worked in the School Office for 31 years and Mr Roger Irvine who left P7 to become Principal of Kircubbin Primary School.

What makes the success of our school more remarkable is the financial constraints under which it has to operate. The Governors and Principal find themselves facing difficult decisions due to the current financial climate in education but we are doing our best to protect those things which directly impact on the children's learning e.g. we are trying to maintain a level of literacy support and by investment in Accelerated Reading programme etc. but find that we are unable to upgrade facilities nor paint corridors and classrooms. We appreciate everyone who helped with a hands on practical work day earlier in the year.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, I wish to express our delight and pride at the ongoing achievements of our children. Both in school and beyond they develop all kinds of skills. They are fantastic boys and girls and deserve to be cherished, nurtured and encouraged to fulfill all the potential that lies within each of them. As Governors, charged with oversight of the school, that is what we hope to see realised.

As parents support them, praise them, encourage them at every opportunity, and in school we will strive to complement what you do so that together we provide them with the best opportunities we can give.

Yours

Peter Lyle
Chair of Governors

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 – 2022

Board Representatives:-	Mrs D Johnston (Vice- Chair) Mrs E Adair
Transferors' Representatives:-	Mr I Bailie Rev S Doogan Rev P Lyle (Chair) Mr N Devlin
Parents' Representatives:-	Mr G Campbell Mr C Moran
Teachers' Representative:-	Mrs L Kennedy
Co-opted Governor:-	Mr D Stewart
Principal	Mrs P Rothwell (Hon Secretary)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The school year 2018-19 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 data analysis, Accelerated Reading Programme, strategies for ADHD, developing resilience and learning through play.

We welcomed Mrs J Frame to the staff as our music specialist and Mrs E Patterson and Miss C Lucas to the teaching staff. Mrs P Patterson returned, following a period of maternity leave.

Our after school club, run by the YMCA had a very successful first year and we are delighted that they have been able to increase the numbers of places available. A strong partnership between school, YMCA and Ballyholme Presbyterian Church has developed, enabling high quality after school care to be provided for our children. It is hoped that in the next academic year we will be able to provide a breakfast club from 8.00am to 8.45am.

The financial position continues to prove very challenging. However, the dedication of the Governors and staff, along with the support of the parents has helped to ensure that we continue to offer high quality teaching with appropriate resources and also opportunities for the children beyond the classroom. Funds raised by parents through the dedicated P.T.A team have supplemented the school budget, allowing new materials to be purchased and repairs to be carried out to outdoor areas.

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 sports coaches also being used to enhance the programme. This year other external providers were also used to provide opportunities for P2-P4 children to take part in after school activities.

Throughout the year our pupils enjoyed much sporting success.

In cross country, many children braved the elements to compete in a range of events during the year. Our girls 'and boys' teams both won medals in the Ards and North Down Primary Schools' competition and some children were selected for the NI Development Squad.

Our boys' hockey team reached the NI finals and in football the team had many close matches finishing a very credible fourth in the league.

Our gymnastics' teams had a fantastic year, with the Under 11 Boys' Pair of Ross Alderdice and Oli Armstrong winning the gold medal and the Girls' A Team winning the silver medal at the British Championships in Stoke on Trent. This is the third consecutive year that our boys' pair have been British Champions – a fantastic achievement. 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 of 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 or 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 Bloomfield Centre and also took part in a service in Hamilton Road Baptist Church.

The P5 Choir performed beautifully at a service in Ballyholme Presbyterian Church and also at a senior Citizen's lunch event in St Columbanus Church.

This year our Senior Choir entered the Radio School Choir of the Year competition. They won the regional heat and made it through to the semi-finals of the competition – a tremendous achievement.

However, the highlight of the year has to be our P7 production of Oliver. All the children in P7 were involved and the school hall was filled to capacity for the three performances. The musical 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. It is so encouraging to see the high levels of attendance at parent interviews, curriculum workshops and in particular at the launch evening for the Accelerated Reading Programme. Thank you also, to the enthusiastic teams of parents who worked hard during our Community Morning to improve the school environment for our children.

The 2018/19 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 / KS1,
Mrs L Kennedy, 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. Three 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 2019

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 award levels at the end of June 2019.

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 2019 our P7 pupils will commence learning in 12 post primary schools.

Bangor Academy	No of Pupils 15	=	17%	St Columbanus College	No of Pupils 5	=	5.5 %
Bangor Grammar	23	=	26%	Strangford College	2	=	2%
Bloomfield Collegiate	1	=	1%	Strathearn	5	=	5.5 %
Campbell College	9	=	10%	Sullivan Upper	3	=	3%
Glenlola Collegiate	16	=	18%	Regent House	9	=	10%
Grosvenor Grammar	1	=	1%	Methodist College	1	=	1%

In 2018-2019 there were, on average 625 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage being 96.3%

Ballyholme Primary School – General Funds Account

2018/2019

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Book Fair	2206.82	Book Fair	2206.82
Bank	89104.18	Bank	70335.20
Post	305.45	Post	56.24
Staff Fund	1738.00	Staff Fund	1808.13
Catering	201.50	Catering	1058.84
Sports Fees	2899.47	Sports Fees	2766.71
Educational Visits	34727.85	Educational Visits	34206.15
Dinner Money	68234.10	Dinner Money	68026.47
Books/Equipment	5620.00	Books/Equipment	17225.20
Swimming	7585.50	Swimming	5611.00
Photographs	1402.92	Photographs	0.00
Charity	9267.99	Charity	8824.17
Music	7603.00	Music	8922.14
Miscellaneous	15078.50	Miscellaneous	10157.85
TOTAL INCOME	231118.96	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	231204.92

	£
Opening Balance	18719.47
Income	231118.96
Expenditure	231204.92
Closing Balance July 2018	18596.42

BALLYHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL

DELEGATED BUDGET 2018-19

Delegated Budget Share (including 17/18 carry forward)	1,616,629.00
Income	37,049.00
	1,653,678.00
Expenditure	
Staff Costs Total	1,555,964.00
Running Costs etc	84,455.00
Carry forward	13,259.00
	1,653,678.00

Costs for School Year 2019-20 are set to rise significantly due to increases in employers' pension contributions and general running costs.