

2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
of
DROMINTEE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. P. Mc Mahon

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November 2016

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Board of Governors of Dromintee Primary School. This report will provide you with a summary of the work of the school during the past year. We invite you to read the report and to contact the Principal if you require any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the Annual Report.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Fr. D. Maloney
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr Adrian Grey
Secretary to the Board of Governors

Dromintee Primary School

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2014 – 2018

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Term of office ends:

Rev Dermot Maloney (Chairman) 2018

Mr Michael Doherty 2018

Mrs Briega Boyle 2018

Mr Stephen Begley (Vice Chairman) 2018

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Adrian Gray 2018

SELB REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Lisa McCrink 2018

Mr Anthony Flynn 2018

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Roisin Martin 2018

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Terry O'Hanlon 2018

2018

PRINCIPALS

Mrs Pauline McMahon – Dromintee Primary School

Mr Donal Keenan – Jonesboro Primary School

ORGANISATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the management of the school in keeping with Dromintee Primary School's educational philosophy and the requirements of the Department of Education. This includes overseeing the curriculum, admissions, staff appointments, management of school funds and the provision and maintenance of school buildings.

Dromintee Primary School

Telephone: 02830888383

STAFF 2015-2016

Teaching Complement

Mrs Pauline McMahon	Principal
Mr.Damian Flood	P7
Mr Terry O’Hanlon	P6 Vice Principal
Mrs Michelle Kelly	P5
Miss Ann-Marie McCann	P4
Mrs Ailish McNaughton	P3
Mrs Niamh McArdle	P2
Mrs Fiona Fearon	P1

Classroom Assistants

Mrs Bernie McConville
Miss Donna O’Neill
Miss Geraldine McCoy
Mrs Edel Sands

School Secretary

Miss Ann-Marie Hanratty

Caretaker

Mrs Bernadette O’Rourke

Cleaners

Mrs Bernadette O’Rourke
Mrs Terisita Martin

Lunch Time Supervisory Assistants

Mrs Bernie Mc Conville
Mrs Bernadette O’Rourke
Mrs Terisita Martin
Mrs Edel Sands
Miss Donna O’Neill
Miss Geraldine McCoy

Crossing Patrol Staff

Mrs Patricia Fox

School Meals Staff

Mrs.Helena Murphy
Mrs.Patricia Fox

Number of Pupils: 186 (112 families)

VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS

Vision

An Léann, An Grá, An Spraoi
'To Learn, To Love, To Enjoy'

Mission Statement

Dromintee Primary School aims to provide a working caring and happy environment in which the potential of everyone may be realised. We wish to promote in all our pupils such values as will make them caring responsible citizens. Each child will be encouraged to fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. We believe in the dignity and worth of each individual and in the development of the whole person. All members of staff share these values and work to ensure a pupil centred approach in which caring is a shared responsibility of all staff. These values underpin and shape all our policies.

School Aims

In Dromintee primary school we aim to:

- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others, and to support and care for one another;
- Equip our children with the necessary life skills, to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values, by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school; and
- Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school, and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

ATTENDANCE

The average pupil attendance in 2015-2016 was 97%

SCHOOL LIAISON

During the Autumn term each parent received an individual invitation to meet his/her child's class teacher, to discuss the child's progress. In the school prospectus for P1 parents, we stress to parents that any queries or concerns which they may have about their child's progress, are welcomed by the staff and will be fully addressed.

We suggest that parents telephone the secretary to make an appointment to meet the teacher they wish to see. Parents will be asked to explain the purpose of the meeting and to leave a telephone number. All interviews, except in emergency cases, will take place between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. We pride ourselves on our "Open Door" policy and thank parents for their continued cooperation and support.

In September 2015, parents were invited to attend Friday morning school Mass and this proved to be very successful with great attendances. The Christmas Show was an excellent production and members of staff are to be complimented for the time, energy and patience spent in ensuring that the children performed so well and with such obvious enjoyment.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND SCHOOL TRIPS

The Governors would like to thank those parents and members of the community who; provided voluntary Gaelic coaching for the pupils in the third term, assisted with Holy Communion and Confirmation, helped with transport to sporting and other events. A number of school trips and school events were planned during the year. These were arranged to help the pupils to have a more practical knowledge of the curriculum and to provide pupils with enjoyable and social experiences.

School Events 2015-2016

First Confession	February 2016
Indoor Gaelic Football Competitions (Boys and Girls)	November 2015-February 2016
Anti-Bullying Week	November 2015
Christmas Mass and Concerts	December 2015
Credit Union Quiz	February 2016
Preparation for Communion (Community Masses)	Terms 2 & 3 2015-2016
Preparation for Confirmation (Community Masses)	Terms 2 & 3 2015-2016
Confirmation	April 2016
Communion	May 2016
Boys' GAA Football Blitz	Term 3 2015-2016
Moving On, Moving Up (EWO Programme)	May 2016
Mrs Mc Mahon's retirement events	June 2016
Leavers' Mass	June 2016

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One School Trips 2015-2016

Class/Teacher	Term I	Term II	Term III
P1 Mrs Fearon		Newry Fire Station	Kilbroney Park
P2 Mrs Mc Ardle	Moyra Castle Slieve Gullion	Bagnels Castle	Kilbroney Park
P3 Mrs Mc Naughton	•	•	Pirates Den Portadown
P4 Miss Mc Cann	•	•	Planetarium Armagh

Key Stage Two School Trips September 2015- June 2016

Class/Teacher	Term I	Term II	Term III
P5 Mrs Kelly	Ulster Museum, Belfast	W5 Belfast W5 Belfast	Tesco Extra, Newry Tesco Extra, Newry Portmore Loughborough (RSPCA)Crumlin W5 Belfast (RSPCA)Crumlin
P6 Mr O'Hanlon	Famine exhibition and Commemoration, Newry	Newry Museum/ Archaeology	• Dublin 1916
P7 Mr Flood		•	• Dublin 1916 • YMCA

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The new school opened in September 2012 and we are delighted with the new building and its state of the art facilities. There are still outstanding minor issues that need to be resolved, a list of which has been forwarded to the project manager. The school's caretaker and staff maintain a very high standard of cleaning and are diligent about attending to ongoing maintenance issues.

Each year the Governors carry out a Risk Assessment report on the premises and this is submitted to the Education Authority. The Principal works closely with the Maintenance Officer to ensure that all issues are addressed.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

In the second term the school launched a new school website www.drominteeeps.com. It is proving quite popular and very useful for promoting the good work of the school

A number of our pupils participated in various extra-curricular activities.

Primary 6 prepared the school garden for opening. The school would like to thank Mr. Harris (parent) for his contribution in helping design the garden.

Two teams took part in the Credit Union Quiz. One team were winners in their Chapter, They came second in their county and progressed to the National Finals in Dublin where they finished around mid-table.

Primary 7 also entered the Road Safety Quiz where came they second in Northern Ireland.

All of the classes participated in concerts and assemblies in 2015-2016. One highlight being the P.3-P.7 Christmas show "Tea towels and Tinsel."

These were excellent productions and great credit is due to all staff and pupils for their hard work and to the parents for their ongoing support.

SPORTING EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The pupils participated in a wide and varied sports programme during the 2014-2015 year. The programme of events included:

- Cross Country P4 – P7;
- Football League (Cumann na mBunscol);
- Swimming for P.6 and P.7 (Term 1 and 3);
- Sports Day;
- Tennis Coaching Programme;
- Soccer Coaching Programme.

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

We try to foster in our children continuing respect for themselves and for others, especially those less privileged than themselves, for the sick, the elderly and those of differing religious persuasions. Under the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding programme we are continuing to endeavour to enhance relationships both within the school and with other primary and secondary schools for the mutual benefit of all those concerned.

CLASS STRUCTURE 2015-2016

<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Number of pupils</u>
<u>Primary 1</u>	<u>Mrs. Fearon</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Primary 2</u>	<u>Mrs. Mc Ardle</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Primary 3</u>	<u>Mrs. Mc Naughton</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Primary 4</u>	<u>Miss Mc Cann</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Primary 5</u>	<u>Mrs. Kelly</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Primary 6</u>	<u>Mr. O'Hanlon</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Primary 7</u>	<u>Mr. Flood</u>	<u>25</u>

INSERVICE TRAINING

In-Service training is an entitlement in the professional development of teachers and staff. We recognise the importance of empowering members of staff with the skills and knowledge required for the effective delivery of the school's curriculum, particularly when implementing the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS AND BAKER DAYS

The School Development Days and Baker Days which were taken in 2015-2016 were used for the purposes of whole-school development. They were strategically linked to the priorities, as identified within the School Development Plan and involved teaching and non-teaching staff, where appropriate. The focus on these days included: Raising Standards, World Around Us Training, ICT Training and Rights Respecting School Training, Speech & Language in the Classroom (all staff) ACE Team – Developing Skills & Capacity in applying Anti Bullying Interventions (all staff).

POLICIES

Schools are obliged to have policies in place covering a wide range of areas relating to the functioning of the school. These policies are available for inspection in the school. School policies are reviewed regularly and subject/area co-ordinators monitor the development of schemes of work, half termly plans and evaluations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) the school accepts that it has a responsibility to take all reasonable and practicable steps to ensure the health, safety and security of pupils, staff and others using the school premises or participating in school activities.

The aim of the school is to provide a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, pupils and visitors. The school will take all reasonable steps to identify and reduce hazards to a minimum through the Board of Governors, the Principal, the staff and external agents/agencies.

The Board of Governors and Principal appreciate that the health, safety and security of all staff and pupils is their responsibility. **It is recommended that The Principal and a member of the Board of Governors carry out a detailed Health and Safety Risk Assessment in Term 3 next year.**

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Educational Needs provision within Dromintee is based upon the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Needs and is in accordance with the Education (NI) Order and Article 18 of the SENDO 2005 Order.

SEN Register: 2015-2016

Stage on Register	Number of Pupils	%
Stage 1	3	1.6
Stage 2	19	10.1
Stage 3	8	4.3
Stage 4	0	0
Stage 5 (Statemented Pupils)	1	0.5
Total	31	16.5

Dromintee Primary School makes effective and efficient use of all support services. Close liaison is maintained with parents, the Educational Psychologist, Therapists, Speech and Language Intervention Services, Pupil Personal Development Services and other Support Services, to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs can achieve their full potential. In accordance with the Code of Practice, a Special Educational Needs Register is maintained. Extra support sessions were provided in 2015-2016 for children with Special Educational Needs in Maths, English, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language and Auditory Processing. (ACE Team)

NUMERACY PARTNERSHIP AND READING PARTNERSHIP

In 2015-2016 a number of pupils participated in the Numeracy Support Programme and in the Reading Partnership Programme. The evaluations which were completed by pupils and by staff members were very positive about the programmes and were complimentary about the effectiveness of the tutors involved.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS IN 2015-2016

- Coffee Morning for Hospice £67.00
- Rotary Club's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: 101 boxes donated
- Trocaire Boxes £1360.00 & 360 Euro

PASTORAL CARE

The Children's Order (NI) 1995 and subsequent directives of 1999, 2003 and most recently 2006, state that the, "welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration". This principle underpins our Child Protection and Pastoral Care Policies and therefore we must always act in the best welfare interests of the child. In accordance with the Department of Education's requirements, Mr T.O'Hanlon served as our Designated Child Protection Teacher, during 2015-2016, and Mrs Fiona Fearon acted in a deputy capacity. In the School Development Plan, "Pastoral Care: Policy into Practice" continued to be a key focus during 2015-2016. .

CHILD PROTECTION

Dromintee Primary School is fully committed to the care and protection of all the children in its care. Our aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that all those working in the school, teachers, non-teaching staff, coaches and volunteers, have clear guidance on the inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. In all their contact with pupils, the staff in Dromintee Primary School will follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication, 'Pastoral Care in Schools – Child Protection' (1999).

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr T.O'Hanlon.

In his absence Mrs F.Fearon assumes responsibility as Deputy Designated Teachers. The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Mrs L.Mc Crink. The children are reminded regularly, at assembly and in class, to consult with the Principal, Designated Teacher or any other member of staff, if they have a concern about their own welfare/safety or the welfare/safety of another student.

EXTRA – CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

In Dromintee Primary School we are aware of the significant contribution that extra – curricular activities and sport make to the life of the school and to the holistic development of our pupils. In 2015-2016 the staff of Dromintee Primary School made a concerted effort to improve the range of extra-curricular activities offered and to actively encourage pupil participation.

After –School Clubs provided in 2015-2016 included:

Choir	Cycling Proficiency
Boys' Football	HipHop
Art	Irish Dancing
Soccer	Cycling Proficiency

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education series Grow in Love forms the basis of the school's Religious Programme. Its central aim is to foster faith and develop the children's relationship with God. The title reflects one of the main aims of Religious Education, namely to enable people to become fully alive to the presence of God in themselves, in others, in the Church and in the world around them. Jesus constantly tried to raise people's awareness of the connectedness of life. Through a variety of images and themes, the children are helped to realise that all things are linked by and to our creator. The Grow in Love series seeks to be a source of spiritual nourishment to staff as well as pupils. It places particular emphasis on prayer, especially quiet meditative prayer. As a worshipping school community, we celebrate special events and days in the Liturgical Year, as well as religious feasts. We pray and sing together each Monday and Wednesday at the Assemblies. Fundamentally, staff and children seek to live out the Catholic Faith as a school community, by working together and caring for one another, in a way which is respectful of each other's needs.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

In 2015-2016 the children brought in over 100 shoe boxes. The children viewed a DVD which showed the distribution of the shoeboxes, which had been donated as part of the previous Campaigns.

UNIFORM

The appearance of our pupils is an important aspect of the school's image and pupils are actively encouraged by all staff to adhere to all aspects of our school uniform.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School Development Plan maps the key issues to be addressed by the school over a three year period. The School Development Plan is reviewed annually and copies are available from the secretary's office and subsequently from the school's new website (www.drominteeps.com)

STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Each subject area is planned and delivered in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The Northern Ireland Literacy Framework forms the basis of our Literacy Programme while our Mathematics Programme mirrors the Northern Ireland Numeracy Strategy. Priorities on the School Development Plan inform the work of the Co-ordinators. Co-ordinators prepare 1 Year Action Plans which map out the priorities and areas of work to be developed. These plans are monitored, evaluated and reviewed. Teachers plan and evaluate their work on a half termly basis and also on a short term basis. Co-ordinators and the Principal monitor teachers' planning and evaluations and provide feedback where necessary.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

The assessment of each pupil's progress is an essential aspect of any good teaching and learning programme and the monitoring and evaluation process is a key responsibility for teachers, for coordinators, for the school's Leadership Team and for the Governors. In Dromintee, we assess and report to parents using a wide range of approaches. In the Autumn Term, parents are invited to meet with their child's teacher on a one-to-one basis to discuss each child's progress. These meetings are informed: by GL Assessment standardised test results, by PiE and PiM standardised test results; by CAT4 results; by homework; by information from the parent and from the child's previous teacher(s); and by observations of the child in class. Annual Reports are sent home at the end of each academic year and a Record of Achievement is presented to Primary Seven pupils at the end of their primary school years, to mark their transition to secondary education.

A variety of summative and formative assessment methods are employed from Primary 1-7. More details of these are provided in the school's Assessment Policy. Formal assessment procedures include: End of Key Stage 1 Assessments (Primary Four) and End of Key Stage 2 Assessments (Primary Seven); NRIT Tests; PiE and PiM Tests; These results provide information for teachers and for parents about the children's academic progress. The Assessment Co-ordinator provides relevant assessment information to the Leadership Team, to the Data Team and to the Governors who analyse the data. This information is gathered on a regular basis and involves:

- Analysis and interpretation of PiE, PiM, CAT4 Test;
- Tracking of children's progress from year to year in Literacy and Numeracy using , PiE and PiM Standardised Test Results;
- Target setting in each class in Literacy and Numeracy using a range of data, including PiE, PiM, and CAT4.
- Regular monitoring and sampling of children's work across the curriculum; and
- Advice and guidance to staff on marking for improvement and the use of summative and formative assessment.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND STAFF

Pupils from our local secondary schools spent some time in Dromintee on work experience. Close links with St. Oliver Plunket's Forkhill, Jonesborough P.S. and Killeen P.S. are maintained to ensure that there is a sharing of good practice, training and expertise across many areas of the curriculum. We are delighted to announce that the school now has a new website; (www.drominteeeps.com). It will be used to inform parents and promote pupil achievement to the wider community.

We also had visits from many external agents e.g.

- Slieve Gullion Streamscapes.
- Ti Culainn Townlands Project
- NSPCC
- The Ace team
- Una Walsh P.4
- Byrson Energy workshop – Primary 6 & 7
- Sheridan Stage School Panto – Beauty and the Beast – Whole School event
- Dairy council workshop – Primary 5 & 6
- STEM workshop – Primary 5, 6 and 7
- Book Fair

- Paul Healey Environment workshop – Primary 7
- Armagh Rhymers – Whole School event
- Specsavers Newry – KS1 and KS2 Workshop
- Geraldine from NSPCC Survey with Primary 1 & 2
- Shelia from TESCO Newry – sponsor fruit for Sports day
- Newry Fire Service visit – Primary 5

MRS MC MAHON'S RETIREMENT.

Having taught for over 40 years and being Principal of Dromintee PS for 25 years Mrs Mc Mahon decided to retire from professional life. The entire Dromintee community are for ever grateful the service she gave in promoting the intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development of our young people. A mass, concert and tree planting ceremony were held in her honour. The Board of Governors wish to express our thanks to the parents for their generous donations. Special thanks to all those who helped organise the events and help make it a special occasion.

CONCLUSION

Parents must be commended for their support and loyalty to the school and to the staff members.

The Board of Governors of Dromintee Primary School would also like to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to the Principal and staff of the school (teaching and non teaching), for both their high level of commitment and for the high standards achieved during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Pupils who received Holy Communion 2015-2016

<i>Ana Bergin</i>	<i>Odhran Carnegie</i>
<i>Daisy Chapman</i>	<i>Kurt Conlon</i>
<i>Conor Dunne</i>	<i>Grace Gallagher</i>
<i>Conoe Graham</i>	<i>Conall Larkin</i>
<i>Carla Locke</i>	<i>Jack Maguire</i>
<i>Keane McArdle</i>	<i>Odhran McCann</i>
<i>Sionnain McCoy</i>	<i>Daithi McCreesh</i>
<i>Sadhbh McKeever</i>	<i>Bethann McKinney</i>
<i>Matthew McMullen</i>	<i>Blathnaid Murphy</i>
<i>Eimear Murphy</i>	<i>Hannah Murphy</i>
<i>Ryan Murphy</i>	<i>Bailey O'Donoghue</i>
<i>Kacie O'Donoghue</i>	<i>Patrick O'Hare</i>
<i>Alannah O'Neill</i>	<i>Michael O'Neill</i>
<i>Diarmaid O'Rourke</i>	<i>Gavin O'Rourke</i>
<i>Colm Savage</i>	<i>Fergus Toale</i>

Pupils who received Confirmation 2015-2016

<i>Rose Boden</i>	<i>Laura Campbell</i>
<i>Lizzie Daly</i>	<i>Sarah Graham</i>
<i>Oran Harris</i>	<i>Nicole Hughes</i>
<i>Reilly Mackle</i>	<i>Antoin Magill</i>
<i>Eoin Martin</i>	<i>Mark McArdle</i>
<i>Eiran McCartan</i>	<i>Clodhna McCoy</i>
<i>Leah McCreesh</i>	<i>Kate McCrink</i>
<i>Oisín McKeever</i>	<i>Miki Mullen</i>
<i>Chloe Murphy</i>	<i>Aoibh O'Neill</i>
<i>Caoimhin O'Neill</i>	<i>Conor O'Rourke</i>
<i>Katie O'Rourke</i>	<i>Sean Taheny</i>
<i>Ciaran Tiernan</i>	<i>Cara Toale</i>
<i>Ciara Walker</i>	

Dromintee Primary School **Financial Information**

The money made available to the Board of Governors by the Education Authority for 2015-2016:

	£
School's Budget Allocation	£ 545,845.00
Carry over from 2014-2015	£3869.00
Net Expenditure 2015-2016	£547,284.00
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Balance carried forward to April 2016	<u>£ 2,430.00</u>

School Fund Account
September 2015- September 2016

Income	£
Balance at 1st September 2015	<u>212.07</u>
Photographs	170.59
School Trips	2878.20
Sponsor Walk Halloween	1335.00 410 Euro
Christmas concert	2483
Credit Union Quiz	200
Cake and bun sale	780.00
Travelling Book Fair	1642.00
Miscellaneous	1150
Total	10.638.79
Expenditure	
Newry Panto	400
School Website	800
Declan Carville	450
Travelling Book Fair	1642.00
Seamus Gallagher	1500
Petty Cash Box	1386.67
Miscellaneous	4075
Total	10253.67

Report compiled by T. O'Hanlon