



Mullaglass Primary School Governors' Report 2020-21

This Governors' Report provides a brief overview of the Academic Year 2020-21
within Mullaglass Primary School

www.mullaglassps.com

Dear Parent,

As Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Mullaglass Primary School, I am pleased to present to you this report of the school year 2020 to 2021.

The education of our pupils is a collective responsibility between, staff, Board of Governors, Education Authority, parents and children and as we reflect on the 2020/21 year we are aware of the important roles we have in the process to ensure the development of our pupils particularly in the light of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Mullaglass Primary School is dedicated to the holistic development of every pupil in our care through a child-centred approach to learning. An approach that values the importance of celebrating success at every level, an approach that advocates the importance of emotional intelligence in all stakeholders and an approach that makes 'learning a lifelong habit'. Learning is done with the children, not by the children. We strive to work together to empower and encourage our children to be confident, creative, passionate, tolerant, resilient individuals equipped to succeed in today's diverse society.

We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone and that through the teaching experiences provided in our school that the children are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the decisions they make.

We do acknowledge however that the Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on the provision of this holistic approach on the education for our children. As a result, children not only had to remain in 'bubbles' but did not attend school from January to March. A range of teaching strategies had to be implemented to support the learning experiences for our children. At this point we wish to congratulate the staff for providing both hard copy and interactive work through Seesaw, each day. This ensured the continuity of learning for our children. We would also praise you as parents for accessing the technology and scaffolding the learning process for your children under uncharted circumstances.

The school also catered for the children of Key Workers throughout the lockdown, with staff working on a rota basis to ensure the safety of the children. These measures however could not cater for the emotional health and wellbeing of our children and we as governors are aware of the ongoing need for us to be proactive in this and as Governors, we strive to play our part in contributing to the ongoing development of our school community.

Please browse through the report and if you have any queries, please contact the Secretary (Mr Greenaway) or myself as Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Yours faithfully

Mr C. Whiteside (Chairperson)

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2020-2021

Transferors' Representatives:

Colin Whiteside (Chairman)

Rev Alan Synnott

EA Representatives:

Mr Geoffrey Moffett

Mr Alan Black

Parents' Representatives:

Mrs Judith Newman

Mrs Elaine McCullough

Teacher Representative:

Mrs A Weir

Principal:

Mr P Greenaway (Non-voting member of the Board)

Secretary:

Mr P Greenaway

The Board of Governors is required to meet 3 times each year but in practice meetings occur more often than this. During 2020/2021 the Governors met regarding:

1. The Delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum
2. Staff Appointments, Attendance & Welfare
3. Admissions Policy and Open Enrolment
4. Self-Evaluation and School Development Planning
5. Policy Review
6. Budget Management
7. Performance Review & Staff Development
8. Promoting Positive Behaviour
9. Salary Review
10. Responding to Department of Education and EA Initiatives
11. Child Protection and Safeguarding measures
12. Reporting to parents

A new four-year term of office for our Board of Governors began in the Autumn of 2018.

STAFFING COMPLIMENT 2020-21

Mullaglass Primary School are extremely appreciative of the efforts of all members of staff. We are justifiably proud of our school and the child centred approach it adopts; this would not be possible without all the staff working together. The high standards achieved and exemplary behaviour exhibited by our pupils are a reflection of the excellent work from all our staff.

TEACHING COMPLIMENT

Principal	Mr P Greenaway
Year 1/2 teacher	Miss Best
Year 3/4	Miss C Doyle
Year 5	Mr P Greenaway / Mrs J McKendry (Principal Release 1 day)
Year 6/7	Mrs A Weir

ANCILLARY STAFF

1 Secretary.....	Mrs K Whiteside
1 SEN Classroom Assistant.....	Mrs B Murtagh
1 SEN Classroom Assistant.....	Mrs L McCulla
1 SEN Classroom Assistant.....	Miss R Dodds
1 SEN Classroom Assistant.....	Mrs M Glass
1 SEN Classroom Assistant.....	Mrs K Whiteside
1 Building Supervisor	Mr D McKenzie

We are fortunate to have such highly motivated and talented staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our pupils have access to the best educational experiences possible.

COVID 19

The start of the September term brought about substantial change for the day to-day running of the school. After carrying out a Covid 19 risk assessment, the following strategies were introduced to ensure the integrity of the individual 'class bubble'.

- Different entrance and exits initiated
- Sanitisers installed throughout the school
- Open window ventilation in all areas of the school
- Whole school bubble approach with each class
- All classrooms set up with desks one metre apart – soft furnishing removed
- All children provided with individual named resources
- High level cleaning recorded regime in place throughout each classroom
- Staggered breaks and lunches
- Supervisors wearing PPE.
- Staggered start and finishing times
- Corridor and class signage clearly visible and child friendly
- No visitors in school unless for necessary maintenance
- School bags prohibited
- Reading books quarantined for 72 hours after use

Strict adherence to this regime allowed the school to operate without any school transmitted Covid cases.

PUPILS' ANNUAL ATTENDANCE

Our current enrolment is 79. Our pupils' attendance continues to be above the Northern Ireland average with the school average being 98.1%. This is indicative of the positive attitude which our pupils and parents have towards school.

CURRICULUM

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 for the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum. Our aim is to offer children a broadly based, well-balanced curriculum which develops the whole child.

The N.I. Curriculum is being implemented in every classroom.

The primary phase of the N.I. curriculum comprises:-

The Foundation Stage – Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1 – Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2 – Years 5 - 7

The curriculum for the three Key Stages is set out in six areas of learning comprising: -

1. The Arts (including art and design, music and opportunities to incorporate drama).
2. Language and Literacy (including talking and listening, reading and writing and opportunities to incorporate drama).
3. Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum).
4. Personal Development (focusing on the development of emotional development, learning to learn, health relationships and sexuality education, understanding in the local and global community).
5. Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities).
6. The World Around Us (focusing on the development of skills and knowledge in geography, history and science and technology).

Although the curriculum areas are set out separately, teachers should, where appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for children. Teachers have considerable flexibility to select from within the curricular areas those aspects they consider appropriate to the ability and interests of the pupils. It is important that parents remember that the N.I. Curriculum is a 'skills'-based curriculum and are kept informed of all further changes and implications for the children.

Learning in all aspects of the curriculum focused on the child and not on what had been missed during the March - June Lockdown of 2020. Emphasis was given to Health and Wellbeing, Literacy & Numeracy. The Arts, World Around Us, Information, Communication &

Technology, Religious Education and Music were taught to all classes either as a subject in their own right or through cross curricular themes/topic work. Physical Education was taught outdoors, where possible. Singing was prohibited from January 2021. Learning moved online on the 5th January 2021 and was facilitated through the medium of Seesaw. Parents also had the opportunity to collect reading book packs, spelling activities and a range of hard copy material. On-line learning took place every day and was tracked. Telephone support was given to parents every 2-3 weeks. 100% of pupils engaged with online learning. Primary 1-3 returned to school on the 8th March and P4-7 returned on the 22nd March and all operational protocols resumed in line with September regimes.

Engage funding: - Extra funding was allocated to focus on children who needed support in reading and phonics.

Health and Wellbeing Funding: - Extra funding was used to purchase outdoor equipment for our school garden.

All children in P3-7 took part in the May statutory assessment for Numeracy and Literacy.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff development is of paramount importance to ensuring the continuity and progression of learning and safety for all stakeholders in the Mullagass community. Opportunities for EA training reverted to online courses or a combination of online and small group training.

Staff Member	Courses Attended / Professional Development	Date of Course
All Staff	Safeguarding and Child Protection	18/8/20
	Code of Conduct for Staff	18/8/20
	Seesaw Training	20/11/20
Mr Greenaway	1 st Time Principal Coaching Day 5 ETI and Remote Learning	22/1/21
	Aspire Principal Coaching	8/6/21
Miss Best	Clare Devlin Learning Outdoor	12/10/20
	Exploring EYFS Early Number	20/10/20
	C2K Managers	18/11/20
	Child Protection and Safeguarding	14/1/21 and 15/1/21
	Musical Pathways for Learning in the	15/3/21

	Foundation Stage	
	Sharing Through Play	26/3/21 and 27/3/21
Mrs Weir	Child Protection and Safeguarding	9/11/20 and 10/11/20
	EPD Teacher Tutor Training	17/11/20
	ECO Schools Action Plan Clinic	23/2/21
Mrs Murtagh	First Aid Refresher Training	26/11/21 and 27/11/21
Miss Dodds	Reconnecting Relationships (SEBW)	18/1/21
	Building Resilience (SEBW)	25/1/21
	Planning Support (SEBW)	1/2/21

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We support all our pupils to fulfil their potential and all reasonable steps are taken to provide access to an education which provides them with this opportunity regardless of special educational need or disability.

We strive to identify children who have any area for development and address these needs as soon as possible. An individual Education Plan is drawn up so that difficulties can be minimised where possible. Parents of children on the register were invited to target and review IEP meetings. Parents were also kept up-to-date with progress via telephone.

During the school year 2020/21 our school's S.E.N. register consisted of 11 pupils with 3 of these having statements of special educational needs.

Mr Greenaway continued as our Special Needs Co-ordinator. A large emphasis was placed on analysing all children's progress in order to challenge any underachievement. Additional support has been offered to a wide variety of children both inside of school and through outside agencies. We have been pleased with the progress made by pupils. School support consists of Reading Partners, Talking Partners, Sensory Group, Withdrawal Group, Reading Eggs and Athletics,

PARENT INTERVIEWS

This year we held telephone interviews with parents in October. We also held telephone interviews with the parents in March.

YEARLY REPORTS

The yearly written reports were distributed to the parents on the 28th June 2021.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Links between the school and the parents were actively promoted during the year. Mullaglass employed a range of communication systems during 2020-2021. During the Autumn and Spring terms parental interviews were held. Parents of SEN children had the opportunity to meet their class teacher and SENCO on an additional six occasions throughout the year.

The use of Seesaw was an exceptional tool to keep in contact with pupils daily during school closure. Regular phone calls and video calls were also used.

Our school website www.mullaglassps.com continues to be updated regular and parents can get notifications of updates through the SchoolsNI app.

Parents can keep up to date with the goings on at Mullaglass through our Facebook page.

Parents were able to book dinners, lunches, clubs, trips all online through our new online booking service Eduspot SchoolMoney.

Our text service (Teachers2Parents) updates parents with relevant information.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, annually events such as our Harvest Service, Christmas Play and Open Night had to be done online. We did manage to successfully invite P7 parents into school after a robust risk assessment to watch our Final Assembly.

P4-7 children enjoyed participating in the Lifeguards Program. Our P5 pupils engaged in an online fire safety talk from the Newry Fire Service.

SHARED EDUCATION

Links between the school and neighbouring Primary and Secondary Schools were actively promoted. We continued into our fourth year of the Shared Education Programme Peace IV project with ourselves and 3 other local primary schools: Kingsmills, St Malachy's and St John O'Toole's. Unfortunately, our Shared Education visits could not take place due to Covid 19.

However, staff meetings occurred and regular contact was maintained between the schools. We hope to continue with our Shared Education moving into the next academic year.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr Greenaway is the designated teacher for child protection and Mrs Weir and Miss Best are the deputy designated teachers for child protection. Children are regularly reminded of how to take care of themselves and each other during assemblies or in class. An Anti-Bullying week was held in November 2020.

Our First Aid trained staff are Mr Greenaway, Mrs Weir, Mrs Whiteside & Mrs Murtagh.

SPORT

All sports tournaments had to be cancelled in 2020-21 due to Covid-19. The school continued to provide high quality afterschool clubs to cater for a range of sports.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our extensive range of extra-curricular activities is due to our dedicated staff who give freely of their time to organise them.

These took place between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm last year (3rd term) and included the following: -

Football	Rugby	Hockey	
Dance	Netball	Scripture Union	
ICT	Art	STEM	
P1-P3 Homework club	P1-2 Art/craft club	AQE Club	Lego Club

Y7 pupils can also take part in cycling proficiency.

OVERVIEW OF PUPIL PERFORMANCE 2020 – 2021

PTE (Progress Test English) and PTM (Progress Test Maths)

P3-P7 pupils completed standardised tests in May.

KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

All Primary Schools are required to assess pupils' progress in English and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 4) and Key Stage 2 (Year 7).

Due to Covid-19, only term 1 and 3 tasks were submitted which resulted in our End of Key Stage levels being teacher levelled. Our pupils continued to perform very positively.

Levels	Language and Literacy	Mathematics and Numeracy
	Key Stage 1	
Level 2 or above	100%	100%
Boys – 7 boys *3 boys on SEN Register, 2 Statemented children.	100%	100%
Girls – 13 girls *1 girl on SEN Register.	100%	100%
	Key Stage 2	
Level 4 or above	80%	73%
Boys – 8 boys *2 boys on SEN Register, 1 Statemented child.	75%	88%
Girls – 7 girls	86%	57%

SCHOOL EVENTS

Regretfully, Covid 19 did curtail our school events. We did continue with our School Assembly every Friday and awards and certificates were given out in individual bubbles in the school playground. We were able to invite P7 parents into school for our Final Assembly under strict Covid regulations. We were able to have our Harvest Service and Christmas Carol Service online – thank you to Miss Best for organising these events.

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THIS YEAR

Once again the pupils and parents contributed to a number of charities.

Poppy Appeal £213.64

Macmillian £79

SCHOOL TRIPS

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, school trips could only take place in June 2021. P1/2 enjoyed a trip to Tannaghmore Gardens, P3/4 went to Newcastle to visit Coco's Adventure Play and Murlough Beach and P5 – P7 went to Carnfunnock in Larne. P7 pupils had an additional end of the year day out at Lurgaboy Adventure Centre.

SPORTS DAY

Our annual sports day took place on Tuesday 8th June without any spectators. We did film the races and these were placed on the school website.

LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

At the end of term, we held a special socially distanced assembly for our Year 7 children. Awards and prizes were given out to pupils for achievements, both academic and non-academic, made during the year. Thank you to Mr Greenaway and Mrs Weir for all their organising for this event.

SCHOOL WORKS

Over the past year, we are delighted to have been granted our proposal for school improvements. Works for a new school playground and new school entrance began in the summer 2021. Approval has been given to new staff toilets and also improvements to the Boys toilets.

FUNDRAISING GROUP

Our fundraising group is made up of members of staff and parents

Mrs Glass	(Chairperson)	Mrs Murtagh (treasurer)
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Miss Dodds		Mr Greenaway
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Mrs McCulla	(Secretary)	Mrs Patterson
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Mrs Whiteside

Throughout the year, the Committee met regularly to organise an interesting programme of events. The committee members worked tirelessly to ensure that events were meticulously planned.

CONCLUSION

The Governors wish to once again record their appreciation of work done by the teaching and non-teaching staff of the school as we strive to achieve this vision. This was a challenging year for all schools as a result of the Covid-19 virus and the consequent school closures. Thanks to the staff for continuing to provide our pupils with high quality learning remotely and providing supervision for key worker and vulnerable children for the entire school community during the lockdown.

The Governors also wish to record their appreciation of parental support – both during the lockdown and throughout the whole school year. The work of the parents and carers to continue pupil's learning at home was crucial this year more than ever. The governors record their thanks to parents and carers for upholding the ethos of the school.

This completes the Governors' Report for the 2020/2021 school year. We have a lot to celebrate and remember in the course of one year. We're extremely proud of the achievements of all of our children and we would like to thank all of our parents for your on-going support.