

ST. BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

'Learning and Growing Together'

Dear Parents

Each school is required to give parents an annual report, so they may continue to know what is happening and be involved in the education of their child.

We, on the Board of Governors, are delighted to take this opportunity to report to you on the successes and achievements of your children and your school between September 2018 and June 2019. We know you will read it with interest and we thank the Principal for her assistance in preparing this report.

As Chairperson of the Board of Governors of St Brigid's Primary School, it is my privilege to work with the newly appointed Principal, Mrs Miller, who took up post in September 2018, the staff and wider community of St Brigid's to ensure the best education for the children in our care. St Brigid's continues to ensure that the school provides a climate where the children feel safe, valued, respected and challenged to do their best.

The Board of Governors deeply appreciates the work of the Parents Association in their fundraising efforts and their support and encouragement for the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the parents for your support throughout the year, the staff for their continued dedication and hard work and my fellow governors for their commitment to St Brigid's.

Yours sincerely

B Smyth
Chairperson

Organisation & Management

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors had overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. As well as nominees of the Trustees, the Education Authority and the Department of Education its membership also included an elected parent governor and an elected teacher governor. The Principal of the School who is a non-voting member, completes the team. The members hold office for 4 years. Governors are invited to attend the necessary training provided by the Education Authority. The varied professional expertise within the Board of Governors has been most useful in achieving targets to be met within the governing body's wide remit. The full Board of Governors met on six occasions to discuss many aspects of school life and to hear the Principal's report on the day-to-day management of the school. Issues such as the school curriculum, staffing, health and safety, enrolment, new initiatives, administration, pastoral care child protection and community links have been dealt with.

The current Board of Governors in St Brigid's Primary School was re-constituted in 2018 and is made up as follows:

Nominated by Trustees

Fr Maurice Henry
Brendan Smyth (Chairperson)
Martina Evans
Michael Robinson

Nominated by Education Authority (EA)

Patricia Martin
Phil Mulhall

Nominated by Dept of Education

Cahal Mc Kervey

Elected Parent

Laura Higgins

Elected Teacher

Grainne Mc Namara

Secretary

Dolores Miller (Principal)

The day-to-day running of the school has been delegated to the Principal of the school. A School Management Team consisting of the Principal, Vice-Principal and three senior teachers provide a framework for the management of the school.

Subject Co-ordinators had specific responsibilities relating to curricular areas and ensured that the curriculum was delivered to your child in as meaningful a context as possible, while at the same time attending to pastoral, administrative and managerial duties. These responsibilities were continually reviewed in light of changing circumstances.

These organisational structures within the school strengthen the school's ability to manage changes arising from Government Policy and to respond appropriately to them.

Aims

Our aim is to provide an educational experience within a caring community in accordance with our Catholic faith.

Specifically we aim to:

- 1 To provide a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum suited to the needs of the child which fulfils the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Order
- 2 To develop each child spiritually, morally, socially, intellectually, emotionally and physically, so that by realising his/her potential he/she can have an appreciation of his/her self-worth
- 3 To encourage qualities and attitudes of initiative, independence, resourcefulness, self-esteem, imagination, enthusiasm and self-confidence in each child
- 4 To help children to develop an understanding of their own culture and tradition and to foster tolerance by promoting respect and understanding for that of others
- 5 To develop home/school links so that children can benefit from their teachers and parents working together as partners in their education
- 6 To establish and maintain acceptable forms of behaviour within a secure and well-ordered school environment by encouraging self-discipline
- 7 To develop children's awareness of their local and wider environments and of the effect which their action can have on both
- 8 To maintain effective links with nursery and post-primary schools to which our children transfer
- 9 To develop an enjoyment of learning and experience success.

Staffing

Class Teachers 2018/19

Principal	Mrs D Miller
Vice Principal	Mrs A Lloyd
P1	Mrs Y Finnegan/ Miss Braniff
P1	Mrs Mc Cavera
P2	Mrs N Canavan
P2/3	Mrs A Tatli
P3	Mrs Mc Namara
P4	Mrs D Fegan/ Miss C Hanlon
P4/5	Mrs L Devlin
P5	Miss Rodgers
P6	Mr C Fitzsimons
P7	Mr McCormick
Literacy Support	Mrs N Mc Grattan

Ancillary & Auxillary Staff

The current non-teaching staff (2018/19) consisted of the following:

Building Supervisor	Mr D Trainor
Secretary (First Aid trained)	Mrs D Pyper

Classroom Assistants:

Miss C McQuoid (First Aid trained)
Ms S Rogan (First Aid trained)
Mrs M Breen/ Mrs M Maguire
Mrs Flanagan
Mrs Baillie
Ms K Rogan
Mrs O Breteche (First Aid trained)
Mrs McLaughlin
Mrs Hanna/ Mrs N Magee
Mrs E Connolly

Cleaning Staff:

Mrs Pleasants
Ms K Mc Quoid/ Ms A Morrison
Mr C Lennon

Leadership & Management

All schools are legally required to formulate a SDP which details the schools priorities for a three year period. The school year 2018/19 was the first year of the implementation of this plan.

Detailed Action Plans, necessary to bring about improvement and raise standards within the school curriculum and provision were drawn up and ratified by Governors. These Action Plans determined the extensive curriculum development programme and staff training for the year ahead. The implementation of these plans are closely monitored by the Governors.

The Governors have linked with teaching staff who have areas of responsibility to support staff through the implementation of their action plan and to further develop the partnership between governors and staff.

Teaching Staff	Area of Responsibility	Link Governor
Mrs D Miller	Principal - Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection Positive Behaviour/ Discipline	Mr Brendan Smyth
Mrs A Lloyd	Vice Principal – P6/7 teacher Special Needs coordinator. Designated teacher for Child Protection. Pastoral Care Coordinator.	Mrs Martina Evans Mrs Patricia Martin
Mrs Y Finnegan	P1 teacher - Structured Play coordinator	
Mrs Mc Cavera	P1 teacher ICT coordinator	Mrs Laura Higgins
Mrs N Canavan	P2 teacher Eco School coordinator	
Mrs A Tatli	P2/3 Teacher	
Mrs Mc Namara	P3 teacher – (1 Management Point) Music & RE coordinator Extended School coordinator Acting Literacy Coordinator	Mr Phil Mulhall
Mrs D Fegan/ Miss C Hanlon	P4 Teacher - (1 Management Point) PE coordinator, Literacy coordinator	Mr Phil Mulhall
Mrs L Devlin	P4/5 Teacher – Shared Education coordinator	

Miss Rodgers	P5 teacher – World Around Us coordinator	Mr Cahal Mc Kervey
Mr C Fitzsimons	P6 Teacher – (1 Management Point) Maths coordinator	Fr Maurice Henry
Mr McCormick	P7 Teacher - (1 Management Point) Assessment coordinator	
Mrs N Mc Grattan	Literacy Support Teacher	

The Principal continued in her role as Associate Assessor Training with ETI. She also engaged in a two day residential with CCMS on developing the role of Outside Assessor.

Mrs Mc Namara successfully completed the Senior Paths to Leadership Programme.

Mr Mc Cormick successfully completed the first year of Steps to Leadership Programme.

All staff were encouraged to avail of Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities.

Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities

All staff received training in Safeguarding & Child Protection. Staff also availed of training in their area of curricular interest and to further enhance and develop the teaching & learning within their class. All staff received a number of training sessions in ICT provided by Nerve Belfast, which enabled staff to upskill in the area of Film & Animation. Within Special Education the SENCO disseminated her training to staff in the changes to SEN provision and a number of staff received training in managing ASD within the classroom setting. Staff received training to support the development of speech & language specifically through the Talk Boost Programme. Literacy training was provided to support the teaching & learning of comprehension strategies & reciprocal reading. Numeracy training was directed towards the promotion of the mental maths strategies. Mrs Devlin attended training on the development of the Shared Education Programme. The Principal & Governors attended training in the guidance on the implementation of the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act, Induction for New Governors & Effective Governance.

Pupil Enrolment

September 2018

Year 1	19	Year 5	28
	17		18
Year 1 Total	36	Year 5 Total	46
Year 2	28	Year 6	27
	10		15
Year 2 Total	38	Year 6 Total	42
Year 3	13	Year 7	28
	29		11
Year 3 Total	42	Year 7 Total	39
Year 4	27		
	7		
Year 4 Total	34	Grand Total	277

We extended a warm welcome to those new pupils who joined us in September 2018.

Attendance

The attendance for 2018/2019 was 96.3%. This is a 0.5% increase on the previous year. Attendance is monitored regularly by the Principal and in partnership with the teaching staff. The Principal is made aware of concerns regarding attendance by staff and liaises with parents to address these issues. The Education Welfare Service supports St. Brigid's in maintaining and improving attendance. Should school intervention fail, their Education Welfare Officer will address attendance issues directly with parents.

Transfers to Post Primary Education 2018-2019

The Table below shows the Post Primary schools to which the Primary Seven children transferred in **September 2019**.

St Patrick's Grammar	6
Assumption Grammar	4
Down High School	1
De La Salle High School	8
St Mary's High School	12
Blackwater Integrated College	4
St Colmcille's High School	1

St Colman's High School	1
St Malachy's High School	2

End of Key Stage Assessment Data 2018/19

End of Key Stage One June 2019	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Using Mathematics</i>	<i>Using ICT</i>
Percentage of pupils attaining Level 2 or above	100%	100%	100%
End of Key Stage Two June 2019	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Using Mathematics</i>	<i>Using ICT</i>
Percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or above	74.36%	79.48%	84.62%

The Curriculum

When we speak of the Curriculum at St. Brigid's we are referring to the learning experiences afforded to each child within the school. These learning experiences include those planned by the staff and those gained from our school ethos and environment.

We recognise the uniqueness of each individual child and plan to provide for his/her needs accordingly.

The Primary phase comprises three areas namely:

- Foundation Stage: Primary One and Two
- Key stage 1: Primary Three and Four
- Key stage 2: Primary Five, Six and Seven

The curriculum covers six areas of study:

- Language and Literacy (Including Talking & Listening, Reading & Writing)
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- The Arts (Including Art & Design, Drama & Music)
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education

Religious Education is taught as a separate subject although the opportunities for cross curricular work are many and varied especially in relation to the Arts, The World around Us, PDMU and Literacy.

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning across all areas of the curriculum, children in St. Brigid's progressively develop skills in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using Information and Communications

Technology. The Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are promoted through planning and developed in a cross curricular fashion.

In 2018/19 the class structure consisted of two Primary One classes, a Primary 2 class, a P2/3 class a Primary 3 class, a P4 class, a P4/5 class, a P5 class, a P6 class a P6/7 class and a P7 class. Each class is of mixed ability and sex. Children coming from other schools were placed in the correct class for their age.

School Development Days

In accordance with Department of Education guidance five non-contact days and five school development days were used in 2018/19 school year.

Dates of School Development Days	Focus of Training
28 th August 2018	ICT Training- Film & Animation
29 th August 2018	Analysis of Data
5 th November	Approaches to Reading
4 th January 2019	Developing the Catholic Ethos
15 th February 2019	ICT Training/ STEM Training

Catholic Ethos

The beginning of school Mass was celebrated on 8th October. Mass was also celebrated on the second Monday of most months. Father Henry our school chaplain regularly visited school to support and promote the development of our faith for pupils, parents and staff.

All P4-7 children received the sacrament of reconciliation on 11th December and 8th April for Christmas and Easter respectively.

Each class led an assembly throughout the year, which parents and grandparents were invited to attend.

All children followed the Grow in Love Programme.

The school choir took part in the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 16th December.

We celebrated Catholic Schools week from 28th January until 1st February, the theme of which was Celebrating the work of our local catholic schools. Our Primary 1 children re-enacted the story of St Brigid, we invited our grandparents into our classrooms to share our learning with them and we recognised the wealth of talent within our school with Our St Brigid's got Talent Show.

Mrs Miller & Mrs Mc Namara met with Mrs Anne Doran from The D&C Catholic Schools' Support Service on 26th February to review the work we have embarked on using our Catholic Ethos Self Reflection Framework.

Mrs Lloyd attended a retreat for Catholic Vice Principals lead by Down and Connor Trustees. All staff explored the ethos of our school in a workshop led by CCMS on Culture & Climate on Thursday 21st March. The local primary schools also took time to examine the work of the catholic teacher through an ethos day on 4th January led by Fr Eddie Mc Donald and Joan Mc Comb from the Down & Connor Catholic Schools' Support Services.

The P3 children received the Sacrament of First Penance on 4th April.

The Service of Commitment was held in St. Brigid's Church on Monday 11th February and was well attended by parents.

Primary 7 children from the school received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 11th March in St Patrick's Church.

First Holy Communion Day was celebrated on Saturday 18th May in St. Brigid's Church and was another very special occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

St Brigid's celebrated our 50th anniversary with a beautiful Mass on Monday 10th June.

A small group of P4 children attended the Parish Corpus Christie procession in St Patrick's on Sunday 23rd June.

The P7 children attended their leavers Mass on Monday 24th June to celebrate their journey through St Brigid's PS.

Our school choir sang at each of these very special occasions to make it a whole school celebration.

Once again the generosity of our children and parents in the support of local charities was impressive. As a school we raised £1,600 for MS through a Sponsored Walk, £400 for Action Cancer by selling wrist bands and £900 for Trocaire through a whole school fast, a number of raffles and class led initiatives. We also made up gift boxes for the Shoe Box Appeal.

Safeguarding

A strong safeguarding ethos is promoted within St Brigid's PS. The Safeguarding Audit was conducted rigorously and shared with the Designated Governor for Child Protection. As part of our Safeguarding programme and preventative curriculum we took delivery of new signage outlining our Designated and Deputy Designated Teacher. This is displayed in the school foyer and at the entrance to school from the playground. As part of this initiative we now have a suite of ID cards and lanyards for all staff and visitors.

Safeguarding/child protection and intimate care policies were distributed to parents of new children. Permission for use of images for the website is sought. We also created a Parent friendly safeguarding leaflet which was distributed to all parents and uploaded to our website. Our P7 children again buddied our P1 children, providing friendship and security for them in a new and unfamiliar environment. In November we took part in the National Anti-Bullying week where through role play, art, discussion, poetry and circle time children were able to begin to understand bullying and the trouble it causes, how to stop/prevent it and who to talk to when they need to. Our school council developed a pupil friendly anti bullying policy. All children took part in Ditch the Dark Day, a PSNI led Assembly discussing safety at Halloween and internet safety activities. P4/5 participated in the road safety programme and P7 children took part in the Bee Safe campaign. Throughout the course of the year, risk assessments were methodically conducted, all new staff completed appropriate Access NI checks and informed of child protection procedures during their induction. The DT/DDT liaised with social services, Family Intervention Team, made referrals and attended LAC review meetings as required.

Through Shared Education and our school budget we secured counselling service for two terms with Barnardos.

The DDT attended refresher training in November 2018. All staff were updated in Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures by the DT. The governors were updated at each meeting of any child protection/children in need concerns. They received copies of ;
Circular 2017/04- Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools – A guide for Schools.
CPSS School Governors Handbook Safeguarding & Child Protection.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care policy is designed to reflect the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of our school community – children, teachers, parents and all other adults who contribute to the well being and happiness of each child. We strive to create a Christian atmosphere where God's love is experienced by all members of the school community through their relationships with each other, where Christ is an example to all and where each child is supported to develop his/her full potential in every aspect of development – intellectual, social, physical, moral and religious. To achieve this, children are made aware that they all have something to contribute to society. We aim to give them an awareness of their own special skills and talents for their own fulfilment and for the benefit of the community. The implementation of the PATHS Programme (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) throughout the school is now an integral part of our PDMU programme.

We recognise the valuable and important role which parents play in their child's education and wellbeing. We try to ensure that parents are made to feel welcome, that they are aware of the school's aims, objectives and policies and of their child's individual needs, progress and achievements and we encourage parents to cooperate with the school in achieving these goals.

Pastoral Care in our school also extends to all the staff and support, whether internally or from outside agencies, is readily available as and when the need arises.

Pupil Voice

During September we had nominations and elections to fill the roles of School Councillor and Eco Councillor. This year we also had elections for Digital Leaders. 12 positions were available on each committee. The manifestoes were of a high standard. Throughout the year the children attended regular meetings with Mrs Devlin, Mrs Canavan & Mrs Mc Cavera respectively to express concerns from their peers and suggest ideas for improvement.

The school council visited the Council Chambers in Downpatrick, they also developed a child friendly anti- bullying flier and led an assembly on anti bullying.

The eco councillors, planted flowers around the front of the school, pursued a campaign of litter picking, planted trees with Newry, Mourne & Down District council and encouraged recycling.

The Digital Leaders visited the Apple store in Belfast, they assisted in the distribution and organisation of digital resources and assisted their peers in developing their ICT skills.

The groups united to fund raise for extra digital resources.

Literacy & Numeracy

Data was analysed in August 2018 to determine the areas of strength within the school and areas for future improvement. The literacy focus for the 2018/19 school year was to develop Comprehension Strategies and Reciprocal Reading in Key Stage 2. In numeracy the focus was to develop Mental Maths Strategies and to continue to promote practical maths activities. A training programme for staff on the development of Comprehension Strategies and Mental Maths strategies was rolled out.

A yearly overview and half term plans for Literacy and Numeracy were developed and monitored. We celebrated Roald Dahl day in September. The children came to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. The local library in Downpatrick welcomed our year P4-P7 pupils to further develop a love of reading and Belfast author David Seabey writer of the Barry Badd series of children's books visited P.6 to promote reading and story writing and to talk about his difficulties growing up with dyslexia.

The Book People Book Fair took place in September 2018 during parents' week. It was a very successful fair. We managed to raise £350 worth of books which was used to supplement each classes' library. World Book Day was celebrated in March 2019.

A group of our P7 children took part in the Credit Union competition and progressed through the stages to reach the semi finals in Dublin.

All children took part in a range of practical activities and problem solving investigations during our Numeracy week which was held in October.

ICT

The promotion and development of ICT is a priority on the School Development Plan. The staff engaged with a partnership with Nerve Belfast. Through this facility staff received tailored training and in class support on the Desirable Feature of Film & Animation. Four members of staff successfully completed their Apple Teacher Badge and are recognised Apple Teachers. Staff again engaged in internal moderation to level pupil work in line with the levels of progression. An ICT profile for every child continues to be developed within the school which reflects their competence in the desirable features to be assessed.

All children had a weekly timetabled session in the ICT suite. They also had access to iPads on a weekly basis. All children participated in activities related to coding during Coding week in October. The school offered an ICT extended school programme and this was always well attended. PSNI led an Internet Safety workshops for pupils in KS1 & 2 during Internet Safety Week.

12 children had opportunities to become digital leaders and attended the Apple Store in Belfast for bespoke training. The digital leaders supported their peers in acquiring new digital skills and managing the digital resources.

The World Around Us

During the year the development of Science investigations was the priority for WAU.

The WAU planning was further reviewed and refined. A line of progression for the acquisition of science skills and knowledge was developed. KS2 classes conducted a local study.

The children went on educational visits and invited guests visited school to support and enhance the learning through WAU.

The Arts (Music & Drama)

This year 14 children availed of musical tuition provided by the EA. Four children successfully completed exams.

Children in St. Brigid's were involved in music and drama activities through a range of productions. For our Christmas concerts P1 performed A Christmas Angel, P2 dramatised Santa's Hat and P3 performed Hey Ewe. These took place on the 13th and 14th December.

The P4's- P7 production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat which was staged in St Patrick's Grammar School on 15th & 16th April demonstrated a wealth of talent within the school. All children enjoyed the marvellous production of Treasure Island performed by M&M Productions on 30th April. P7 children also engaged in a workshop on creating such a production.

Children from P1 to 7 were involved in singing and performing at class assemblies over the course of the year and in particular in our St Brigid's got Talent Show.

Our School Choir were involved in many musical events and various liturgical occasions including our School Mass, Catholic Schools' Week, our Open Day, First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Shared Education

This year we decided to implement a whole school approach to shared education, with every child P1-P7, benefitting from shared education activities.

Foundation stage enjoyed a range of play based learning activities per term, incorporating both indoor and outdoor activities, whilst making use of the large embankment area and all the outdoor play equipment eg bikes, obstacle courses, scooters etc

The whole school focused particularly on ICT, PDMU and PE. The children worked in mixed groups on a range of activities, led jointly by teachers from both St. Brigid's and Downpatrick Primary. Downpatrick Primary were able to share their ICT skills in coding, and in particular, unplugged coding with St. Brigid's.

In PDMU, the children focused on the issues of differences and on the theme of respecting differences. They looked at a range of difference; such as skin colour, cultural and language differences, religion etc. They also looked at the similarities between us all as humans and that we should treat people the way we would like to be treated.

The children explored a range of PE activities, incorporating athletics, games, dance and gymnastics.

At the end of term, all children had a shared education trip with their links in Downpatrick Primary.

Our two school councils met at the Council Chambers in December for a Q&A session with Chairman, Mark Murnin.

In sport, the P7 girls from both schools attended a netball tournament at St. Marys, Killyleagh.

A parent, whose child left P7 last year and transferred on her own to Down High, came back to school to state that she was delighted the children had Shared Education this year as her child moved to a new school, but knew a few friends from her shared education experiences. This meant she settled easier into her new school, with the few familiar faces to help.

Assessment & Reporting

All staff engaged in the analysis of data, to identify low achievement, possible underachievement and to highlight children who were performing above their expected attainment.

Using this data staff were then guided through the task of setting realistic yet challenging targets.

PTM and PTE Standardised assessment in the areas of Mathematics and English were carried out from P3 to P7 in April/May 2019. All children from P2-P7 completed Standardised Spelling Test and Reading Tests. In addition CAT (Cognitive Assessment Tool) was carried out on P3- P7 children. The correlation of these results have been used to identify strengths and areas of weakness at whole school, class and individual pupil level. Realistic but challenging targets for the future academic year have been set.

Test results are recorded for each child enabling progress to be tracked via the SIMS software. Additional assessments are carried out by the Learning Support Teacher and teachers assess children in their classes on a regular basis to inform planning.

On-going assessment of teaching and learning is an integral part of St. Brigid's approach and children are encouraged to evaluate and reflect on their own learning. Varieties of approaches recommended by Assessment for Learning are used throughout the classes, encouraging self and peer assessment.

P4 and P7 were assessed with reference to the levels in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT. These results were reported to parents in June 2019.

Special Educational Needs Provision

Provision for pupils with learning needs was on-going in 2018-19. Children with learning difficulties were identified at an early stage and were supported by our team of Learning Support Teachers and Classroom Assistants. This support involved both withdrawal in small or individual group teaching and differentiated activities within the classroom. Pupils with learning needs were identified, assessed and an individual or group plan was drawn up with the teacher and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) to work with these children to meet their needs. These learning needs included the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Social Emotional and Behaviour.

This year the children were more involved in aspects of planning, reviewing and setting targets educational, behavioural or social and emotional for their IEPs and IBPs and have greater ownership of them. The children were made more aware of pupils with learning difficulties through taking part in Dyslexia Awareness Day in October and Autism Awareness Week in February.

During the year the school consulted with the Educational Psychologist regarding 8 children's learning and social and emotional needs. Four were assessed using the psychology time allocated by EA.

These children have been given agreed Individual Education Plans which helped to address their needs. At all stages of arrangements for children with special educational needs, parents were kept informed of what was being done and were closely involved in any decisions relating to the educational provision for their children.

Statements of Special Educational Needs were maintained by the EA. The medical and educational arrangements for these children were reviewed between January and March and any further action was agreed. Again, this year there was screening of children who were showing indicators of some specific learning difficulties. Children with SpLD were provided with Outreach Support. Five children received SpLD support.

At the end of June 2019 we had 58 children on the Special Needs Register and 54 on the Medical Register. Of the children on the register 9 children have a Statement of Educational Needs and have additional adult assistance in school to help them access the curriculum. The needs of these children included behaviour issues, children on the Autistic Spectrum, children diagnosed with ADD/ADHD, those who have severe medical needs and newcomer children. The work carried out in learning support is in conjunction with and additional to the work carried out in class and is always driven by the needs of the child as laid out in their IEP.

The progress of all children who were in receipt of additional help either on a long-term or short-term basis was reviewed by the class teacher in consultation with the child's parents at regular intervals. The school regards this close liaison as most necessary if progress is to be made with individual children.

In addition, two of our classroom assistants have been providing the Reading Partnership Programme to children over an intense ten week period to support reading. Other Foundation stage children were supported in their language development through the Talk Boost Programme offered by a trained assistant and Speech & Language services.

All other children's needs are met within the classroom and work is differentiated according to their individual needs.

Contact was maintained regularly throughout the year with relevant outside agencies who offered support and advice on children with learning, medical and/or behavioural needs of any description. The SENCO ensured that St Brigid's continued to be an inclusive school providing all opportunities to all of our children. We liaise closely with our parents of newcomer children so they can support their child's education and belong to the school community. At the end of June 2019 we had 8 newcomer children. Support for these children was provided through the Inclusion and Diversity Services. These children's language needs were assessed and targets set using the CEFR Framework.

The SENCO attended training on the new SEND Act and disseminated this to staff. Two teachers and 3 classroom assistants attended Training provided by RISE NI and 3 members of staff were trained in Diabetes awareness and the administration of insulin injections.

Health Education

The importance of healthy lifestyles and healthy choices continues to be a priority focus within the school. All classes implement the preventative curriculum through their PDMU programme and The PATHS Programme. Our P4 children took part in Everybody Active Programme for a six week block. The Daily Mile initiative continues to be implemented in St. Brigid's Primary school. This programme has had a positive affect on both physical health but also on pupil well being.

Our Breakfast Club ran each morning to provide a healthy start to the day. This was well attended with approximately 200 children attending each week.

Children were encouraged to drink water during the school day and parents supported guidance on providing no fizzy or sugary drinks.

The school secured a three year partnership programme with Sustrans. Throughout the school year children participated in Ditch The Dark Day, Active Travel, Dr Bike Day, Ditch the stabilisers, cycling proficiency and The Big Pedal.

Our Extended School activities continue to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles with coaching in Gaelic, Soccer, Acti-Sport, Dance, Art and Cookery.

The P7 children attended a resilient workshop- Working under Pressure in October and attended the Bee Safe programme at the Ballymote Centre.

The P5 Children attended an Anti- Bullying workshop during Anti- Bullying week in November. All children also took part in Odd Sock Day and Super Hero Day(as part of Autism Awareness week.)

The flu vaccination was administered on 4th December and the School Nurse completed P1 medicals during the week beginning the 20th May.

Sporting & Extra Curricular Activities

Swimming

The children from P6 & P7 attended swimming lessons at Downpatrick Leisure Centre. The children were led by qualified swimming coaches. All children participated readily in this activity and excellent progress has been made across the year groups with all children receiving an award – Well Done!

Soccer

This year saw the re introduction of the soccer club in St. Brigid's PS under the coaching expertise of Seamus Heath. Weekly after school training sessions for all children from P1-P7 saw the promotion and development of some fine skills and qualities.

Gaelic Coaching

2018/19 saw the coaching of Gaelic skills for children from P1-P7 offered by Down County Board. P6 children attended a GAA blitz in June and demonstrated a lot of skill and talent in this sport.

Netball Coaching

The KS2 children were coached by Miss O' Hanlon & Mrs Fegan during the 1st & 3rd terms. Our school came first in the netball tournament attended in June hosted by St Mary's PS killyleagh.

Dance Coaching

The introduction of the Dance Club provided by an experienced dance teacher proved very popular with our children.

Sports Day

We had another successful Sports day on 12th June organised by Tosh, from Down GAA for P1-P3 children . The P4-P7 children had their sports day on Tuesday 18th June. Many children received medals for achieving first and second place.

The extra curricular activities at St. Brigid's, provided numerous benefits for our children enabling them to explore their physical, creative, and social interest as well as learning many new skills. Clubs included, Breakfast club, Soccer, Gaelic, Art, ICT, Construction, Dance, Irish, library, Yoga, Games and Cookery.

In term 3 we opened our S'cool Club providing a range of activities from 2.00pm – 5.00pm daily. These activities enable our children to avail of an extended day from 8.15am until 5.00pm. The Board of Governors wishes to thank those staff who organised and/or provided these activities and the outside agencies who worked in partnership with the school to provide this programme.

School Trips and Visits

A variety of school trips and educational visits took place over the 2018/19 school year with the children also accessing learning outside of school. The P1 children visited the Farm, P2 & P2/3 visited Mount Panther. P3 had a great day out at the Museum. P4 & P5 went to Armagh Planetarium and the P4 children also celebrated their First Communion with a picnic at the Quoile Pondage Nature Reserve. The P7 residential in the Share Centre, once again offered a variety of experiences and opportunities and created many treasured memories. The children have also benefited from visits to the Library, a Road Safety Assembly, Visit from PSNI- Internet Safety, a visit from the Fire Safety Team. For all trips and visits Risk assessments were carried out.

Community Relations, Equality & Diversity

Within St. Brigid's community relations, equality and diversity are actively promoted and encouraged. Opportunities such as European Day of Languages, our Grow in Love programme, Catholic Schools' Week and Irish Night actively raise whole school awareness of values and helps to develop understanding of equality and diversity. Our Newcomer children are supported using the Inclusion & Diversity Service. We also have used interpreters and translated key documents. In addition St. Brigid's Primary School and Downpatrick Primary School have a cluster programme running through the Shared Education Programme.

Links with the Community

St. Brigid's has continued to work to develop links with the local community. In the following ways:

Name of link	Link summary
Pastoral Care	
School Chaplain: Fr Henry	Preparation and celebrating sacraments, school
Parish Priest: Fr Murray	Masses, Faith development.
St Patrick's Grammar School	Reading and Numeracy support programmes
Diocesan advisors	Advice, training, support materials and school visits
Barnardos	Counselling- Time for Me Programme
Child Safeguarding	Link Summary
Education Authority	Child Protection training and support. Bereavement support

Education Welfare Officer	Monitors attendance and provides advice and support
Social Services	Referrals and support
ChildLine/Bryson House	Support materials and advice
Newry and Mourne Council	Bee Safe workshops for our P7 children
PSNI	e- Safety workshops, advice, Road Safety
Learning Support	Link Summary
Education Authority	In-service training for coordinators
Educational Psychology	Consultations, assessments and statements of educational need
ASD Service	Staff training, pupil support, advice and support materials for children with Autism/Aspergers
Longstone Outreach Service	Support for children with social and behavioural difficulties
Speech and Language – Anne McKeever	In-school support for children with Speech and Language difficulties
RISE NI	Multi-disciplinary team which works alongside teachers and parents to support children
Curriculum Enrichment	Link Summary
Class visits	Armagh Planetarium, Mount Panther, Museum SHARE Outdoor Pursuit Centre, Downpatrick Library, Ark Farm, Credit Union, Down Museum, Quoile Pondage
Invited guests	Authors, Fireman, Nurse, Falconer, Book People, M&M Productions
Sport	Link Summary
Russell Gaelic Union, Down County Board	Gaelic coaching, football tournaments
IFA coach	Soccer coaching
Newry and Mourne Council	Swimming lessons, Tree Planting
The Arts	Link Summary
Education Authority	Peripatetic support for children learning to play the violin, cello and woodwind instruments
Patrician Youth Club	Attendance at drama productions
Cinemagic	Cinemagic provide films throughout the year for the children to write reviews on.
Irish tutor	After school Irish language classes P1 to P7
Other Schools	Link Summary
St Patrick's Grammar School	Sixth Form students engage in Reading Partnership with our P3 children and in Maths support for our P6 children. Peer Ministry for P7 children. Use of Sporting and Drama facilities. Student work experience placements
De La Salle High School	Confucius Programme Transition programme
St Mary's High School	Transition work between Year 7 and Year 8. Student work experience placements.
Downpatrick PS	Joint sacramental preparation, Shared Education Programme
Other Schools	Open Days and visits for drama productions. Work experience placements.
Health Promotion	Link Summary
School Nurse	Provides training, talks and support for teachers and our children on health issues

Public Health Agency	Provides literature on health promoting issues and wellbeing for children, staff and parents
Dairy Council	Health promoting presentations
INSPIRE	In-service training for staff on pastoral issues
CAMHS	Counselling and advice on children's mental health issues
Charities we have supported	
Action Cancer	
MS	
Trocaire	
Romania Appeal	

In addition the following approaches are used to keep the community involved and informed:

Newsletter

Letters Home

Homework Diaries

Parents Notice Board

Website with photographs and information from the school

Facebook/Twitter/ See-Saw app

Parish Bulletin

Classroom information boards / school noticeboard

Photographs and articles in local newspapers

Prospectus

Annual Governors Report

Parent Teacher Association

The Board of Governors wishes to extend its thanks to the members of St Brigid's PTA organization for their continuing interest and help in the school. Not only do they support the school through the financing of resources they also contribute to the life of the school and wider community. Their hard work, dedication and genuine commitment to the school is greatly appreciated. This year the PTA has helped the school purchase an interactive Smart Board, Christmas Crackers, Bouncy castles for the Fun Day and subsidises the Leaver Hoodies for the P7 children. The PTA also secured funding for the school through three successful grant applications.

Open Night

An 'Open Evening' took place in St. Brigid's Primary School on Tuesday 6th December. It proved to be an invaluable opportunity for prospective parents to see first hand the facilities and experience the wonderful atmosphere which exists in the primary school. From this 44 applications were received for P1 admission in September 2019. An induction morning was held for these children on the 6th June.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent-Teacher consultations were held in November 2018. A detailed report was issued to parents in June 2019. The school continues to regard this report and consultations as a vital part of good communication between the home and school. The school also encouraged parents to consult with teachers on a regular basis throughout the year.

Links with Post Primary Schools

We value our close links with local secondary schools. In 2018/19 we continued our link with St Patrick's Grammar School (SPGS). A Paired Reading Programme involving upper sixth students from St Patrick's and our P5 children was carried out in the second term. The P6 class also had some numeracy support from 4 upper sixth students. A new link with De La Salle was established with the implementation of the Confucius Programme. Our P5 children received weekly lessons in Mandarin, which they really enjoyed. Teachers from all our transfer schools visit our school at least once annually to speak with our P7 children.

Indeed, we deeply appreciate the support given to us by all our Post-Primary Schools. There is no doubt that such activities, taken together with the Post-Primary and Grammar School Open Evenings, do help children and their parents to make better informed choices of post-primary level schools for their children and this contributed to the smooth transition from primary to secondary education.

Building & Security Arrangements

The children and staff are kept safe on our school premises at all times. Exterior doors are kept locked and there is a buzzer system in place for visitors to the school.

All visitors to the school must report to the secretary's office and sign the visitors book. Children are collected from allocated destinations within the school. It is then the parent's responsibility to accompany their child(ren) home or to their car. Older children are allowed to walk home with parental permission.

The school continues to be maintained to the highest standards. This is a reflection of the respect and care shown by the children for their school and also of the high standard of care-taking in the school.

Fire evacuation procedures were conducted each term on the following dates; 12th November , 17th April and 18th June.

LMS BUDGET REPORT

St Brigid's is allocated a sum of money to pay for all staffing, maintenance and running costs. The Delegated Budget for 2018/19 was £819,866. The Board of Governors has the overall responsibility of managing this budget. The Total Spend was £798,816 of which £736,134 was staffing costs. The Carry Forward to 2019/20 is £21,050.

School Funds

The school also operated a school fund account for incidental expenses and immediate requirements. In 2018/19 the School Fund account had an income of £36,034.82 and an expenditure of £26,033.70. The balance of school funds was £10,001.12 on 8th July 2019.

We thank the parents for their on-going support to the school in these very challenging Financial times in Education.