

# Annual report of the Board of Governors



**2021/22**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018/2023**

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

**Mr B Kelly**

**TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**Rev. Fr T Mc Hugh**

**Mrs L Webb**

**Mr J Comiskey**

**Miss S Daly**

**DENI REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mrs M Garvey**

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mr M Donnelly**

**EA REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mr D Conlon**

**TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mrs R Fearon**

**PRINCIPAL**

**Mrs Jacqueline Loughran**

**Chairperson: Mr Barry Kelly**

**Vice Chairperson: Rev Fr T Mc Hugh, CC**

**Secretary: Mrs J Loughran**

## GOVERNORS' REPORT 2021/22

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed the *Governors' Report* for the school year 2021/22. The Board of *Governors* urges you to study the report carefully. It is a record of endeavour and achievement during the past academic year.

Parents, pupils, staff and the Principal deserve credit for the hard work and effort put in throughout the year in light of the ongoing challenges presented by covid 19. It is a testimony to school leadership that only one class spent 2 days on remote learning this year.

Should you require clarification of any aspect of the report please forward your request to the principal in writing.

The Board of *Governors* is responsible for the overall management of St. Jarlath's Primary School, Blackwatertown. I want to record my special thanks to all my colleagues on the Board of *Governors*. During this past year they have worked very hard, in what is an entirely voluntary capacity, on a board which meets regularly, both in plenary and sub-committee sessions, in the service of your children.

I would like to sincerely thank the dedicated work and effective fundraising efforts of our Parent Support Group.

Gratitude is also extended to the clergy of the parish, who help with chaplaincy and liturgical services in St. Jarlath's.

Yours sincerely

Barry Kelly  
(Chairman)

## **Organisation and Management of the Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors of St. Jarlath's Primary School supported by the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS), the Education Authority and (EA) and the Education and Training Inspectorate take responsibility for the smooth running of the school.

During a school year the Board of Governors must meet at least three times but has in fact met much more often than this. They heard up to date reports by the Principal and discussed and directed school business. The governors wish to take this opportunity to thank CCMS, ETI and the EA for their much-valued support throughout the year.

The Governors was reconstituted in October 2018.

### **What are the main responsibilities of the Board of Governors?**

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. Some of their duties and responsibilities are:

- 1 The oversight of the curriculum
- 2 The control of the budget
- 3 The provision of information to parents
- 4 The appointment and dismissal of staff
- 5 The maintenance of the premises (shared with EA)
- 6 Fostering links with the local community and pursuing objectives of mutual understanding
- 7 Discipline and control.

## CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Under the Education Reform Order the responsibility of Governors for the curriculum i.e. what is taught in the school, has been increased. The day-to-day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility. The governors' control of the curriculum is, however, determined by legislation.

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. The school continues to develop its curriculum provision; policies have now been completed in a wide range of subjects and will be reviewed where necessary.

2021/22 was yet another challenging year for pupils, staff and parents. Term 1 saw a continued focus on a Recovery Curriculum with the emphasis on Numeracy, Literacy, PE and Mental Health and Well Being.

By far the biggest challenge faced this year was attendance of both pupils and staff owing to covid 19. It is a testimony to school staff and leadership that despite this only one class was moved to remote learning this school year for two days only.

### Staffing:

- Mr Mc Ginn was made permanent in our school
- Mrs Fearon will be appointed Vice Principal in September 2022
- In the area of staff development two teachers successfully completed EPD.
- 2 student teachers were accommodated
- Miss O'Neill (Mrs Mhic Iomhair) returned from her career break
- Mrs Fearon was appointed to the role of temporary SENCo and set about training teachers and classroom assistants on the new changes being introduced under the SEND legislation.

- Mrs P Doherty retired from her role as Foundation Assistant. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her years of service in our school.

Our school continues to invest in the Accelerated Reader program and implemented it successfully in P4 to P7.

Owing to continued funding from DE an Engage programme, focussing on literacy, was delivered to targeted pupils in P2 and P3 with moderate results. Staff continuity and pupil absence severely affected the outcomes of this programme.

DE funding was also accessed for Happy Haetlhy Minds (Art therapy and counselling) Outdoor resources, SEND resources and wellbeing.

Funding from families enabled the school to purchase 7 Interactive Panels to update and replace Interactive Whiteboards. This is a significant investment in our school and a sign of the high esteem in which our families hold the work being done in school and the desire to get the best for their children.

### **Extra-Curricular Experiences**

*Activities continued to be affected by covid 19 restricitons, term 1*

- Burns Soccer, Dance and Multi Games was offered
- After school gaelic was offered by Mr Loughran and Mr Mc Ginn
- Camogie was offered during school to P5 pupils
- Teacher led clubs were offered in term 3 by the vast majority of teachers and Mrs Keenan, Art, Eco and Cookery
- Armagh Cumann na mBunscol offered Gaelic coaching
- Karol Mc Quade delivered FUNdamentals sessions

### **Links with the community**

The school values its links with the church and its participation in the life of the parish. The priests, teachers and parents continue to work together in the preparation of children for the sacraments. This year saw normal attendance at First Holy Communion and Confirmation which was lovely to see.

Special thanks also go to Mrs Mhic Iomhair who prepared the children for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion and to Mr Loughran who prepared the P7 class for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### **Parent Support Group and Fund Raising**

Our Parent Support Group continued to raise much needed funds this year through a variety of virtual ventures. A successful Easter Egg Race was held again this year. The PSG also organised food for the P7 end of year disco.

The Board of Governors wish to publicly thank this small group of parents for all the work they do throughout the year, including Non Uniform Days.

The school continued to enjoy the generous support of parents and the wider community in its efforts to raise money for various charities throughout the year. This year an amazing amount of donations for the Ukrainian Sunflower Appeal as well as donating £340.50 to the Children's Heartbeat trust who had helped one of our families last year. One family continues to pay for the "ice cream man" to visit in 3<sup>rd</sup> term. A family business sponsored the school website.

***The generosity of our families never ceases to amaze us.***

## ATTENDANCE

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school and arrive on time for lessons. We acknowledge parents' contribution to the school's very good attendance rate of 92.8% given the fact that covid was in circulation. We advise parents not to send children who are ill to school, as other children or staff may be exposed to infection

## Premises and Security

This school year was another extremely challenging one for Governors and Principal in terms of maintenance. The heating in the top part of the school continues to present problems and we are trying very hard to get EA to repaint the internal of our school. We have also made numerous requests to EA to increase the number of female toilets from 1 to 2.

Pupils and parents were reminded that access is not allowed to school premises outside school hours and we thank the parents for their co-operation in relation to our efforts to maintain good security in the school. The governors will continue to strive to maintain and improve security in and around the school.

The Governors also wish to thank staff and pupils for their continued commitment to caring for the building and grounds.

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All staff is to be commended on the school's achievements and on the quality of pastoral care and good standards of discipline, which the children enjoy. Thanks are also due to the staff of the EA and CCMS for their support and guidance. The governors would also like to express thanks to all external agencies: patrolman and bus driver, who all help to provide a valuable service.

## School Funds

At the end of July 2022 the school account balance was £12,992. Some transport, resources, Classroom Assistant (ASC) and school trips still have to be subtracted from this figure.



## Staffing for 2021/22

### **Teaching:**

Mrs J Loughran	Principal
Mr H Loughran	P7
Mr C Mc Ginn	P6
Mrs C Vallely	P5
Mrs Mhic Iomahair	P4
Miss O'Kane/Mrs Mc Ferran	P3
Ms M Smyth/Miss K Hughes	P2
Mrs Fearon	P1

### **Ancillary:**

Mrs D Mc Loughlin	Secretary
Mr M Casey	Caretaker
Mrs R Mallon	Cleaner

### **Classroom/Domestic Assistants:**

Mrs Phil Doherty  
Mrs Rose Keenan  
Ms A Rafferty  
Miss E Mc Clelland  
Miss T King  
Miss P Jordan  
Mrs K Halligan

### **Supervisory Assistants:**

Mr M Casey  
Mrs D Mc Loughlin  
Mrs. M Gillen  
Miss P Jordan

### **Kitchen Staff:**

Mrs I Conroy  
Mrs L Carlyle  
Mrs R Mallon

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Audrey Adams - EA Suitability Survey - to check all space, resources etc

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Staff return for Baker Day 1

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**

Baker Day 2

**August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Baker Day 3

**August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Baker Day 4

**August 31<sup>st</sup>**

School reopens for pupils

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**

EA School Dinners & Bus resume, After School Minding Club resumes

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

P1 Class attend Mon-Fri 8.45-11.45am

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Registration in Parochial Hall carpark for Burns After School Soccer & Dance Classes

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

P1 Classes resume as normal

Burns After School Dance Class Begins (10 weeks) P1,2,3,& 4

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**

C2K DENI Overview online - DMcL

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Burns After School Soccer Class Begins (10 weeks) P1,2,5 & 6

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Ulster Gazette P1 Photo

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**

St John The Baptist Portadown Football Blitz

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

School Development Day 1

**October 13<sup>th</sup>**

P3 Apple Week Trip

**October 14<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI Team to see P2 Pupil

EWO to attend for attendance audit

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Madden P.S. Football Blitz in Portmor Football Field

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Halloween Assembly - Art Competition Results

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Half Day Closure 11.30am

Halloween Dress-Up & Treasure Hunt

**October 25<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Halloween Break

**November 12<sup>th</sup>**

Teacher's Notes to Parents re: reports

**November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Senco Day 1 - Mrs Fearon

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Senco Day 2 - Mrs Fearon

RISE NI Team to Observe & Assess P2 pupil

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI Team - Whole Class session

**November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Flu Vaccines

New Woodwind Music Teacher Mrs Catherine Shanks Starts today

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Visit from Ciara Burnett St Catherine's College to meet Principal & P7 Girls

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Last session of Gaelic Class today

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Last session of Burns Soccer today

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Tele Conference C.P. - Ms Smyth

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

Last session of Burns Dance today

AMMA Training Session

Openreach EA Survey for a fibre order

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**

SRC Observation session for trainee student

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Cross Country in Portadown Rugby Club

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

EA Survey re Cable for internet with Openreach

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Break The Rules Day (Proceeds for school funds)

Clearwater to check water

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

After School Provision Club Closes due to lack of staff cover

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

EIR Business NI to set up temporary network for internet

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

PAT Testing & Emergency Lighting Test

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

P7 Girls Taster Day at St Catherine's College

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

AMMA Training Session

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Mass

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI to do class observation for P3 Pupil

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Christmas Movie Day

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Half Day Closure 11-11.30am

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>**

School Closed for Christmas Holidays

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed for New Year Holidays

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**

School Development Day 2

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**

Crane Communications to do maintenance check on fire alarm

Joe Kerr - EA Maintenance meeting with Mrs Loughran

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Openreach to install fibre cable for internet

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Eamon McGarrity to start music session with P6

**January 14<sup>th</sup>**

St Mary's Student begins today

Swimming Classes start

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Openreach to install box for fibre cable

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

SRC Tutor to visit students.

Brenna O'Mara to visit P3 pupil (for 6 weeks)

**January 26<sup>th</sup>**

INTO Conference - Mrs Loughran

**January 31<sup>st</sup>**

Burns Basketball sessions begin

**February 1<sup>st</sup>**

After School Gaelic Classes start with Karol McQuade

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Burns Soccer sessions begin

First Aid Course Day 1 - Miss McClelland

RISE NI Occupational Therapist to visit with P2 pupil

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

First Aid Course Day 2 - Miss McClelland

**February 4<sup>th</sup>**

First Aid Course Day 3 - Miss McClelland

Rosemary Harper ASD (P3 & P5)

Swimming session cancelled due to Covid among swim staff

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

P7 Girls to attend viewing of "Matilda" in Armagh Theatre

**February 8<sup>th</sup>**

James from AMMA Centre to visit P4

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**

School Nurses to do Health Appraisals on P2 pupils

**February 10<sup>th</sup>**

SRC Tutor to visit with student

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**

P5 to visit Egyptian Event in Navan Centre

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

School Development Day 3

**February 15<sup>th</sup> to February 18<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed for Mid-Term Break

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Football Blitz in St Peter's GAA Lurgan

**February 25<sup>th</sup>**

St Patrick's Grammar School Football Blitz in St Patrick's Playing Fields  
Armagh

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Melodica Classes begin for P4 with Conall McBride

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

BT engineer to install router

Fr McHugh visit to distribute ashes to pupils & staff

CHC repaired light in outside store

Avalon Blind fitted blind in new Sensory Room

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Interactive Panels installed today

Creative Activity to install Sensory equipment in new Sensory room

Child Protection Tele Conference - Ms Smyth

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Cool For School Photography to photograph pupils

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**

St Mary's University Tutor to observe student

Maintenance - Chris McCool, Ronnie Totten & Julie McMahon to visit re updating ladies toilets

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**

First Aid Course (refresher) - Ms Smyth - ATC

**March 11<sup>th</sup>**

First Aid Refresher Course \_ Ms Smyth - ATC

RISE NI Behavioural Therapist & interpreter visit re: P2 pupil

Joan McMenemy re: Happy Healthy Minds Project

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

REACH programme P3-P7 (Well-being & Mindfulness)

RISE NI Occupational Therapist for P2 Pupil

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI Therapist & Interpreter visit re: P2 pupil

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

First collection of Irish News in Hegarty's shop for P6 class

First Confession 11am in St Jarlath's Church

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed for St Patrick's Day

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Green Day for Trocaire

No Swimming class today

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Fionnuala Art Therapist meeting with Ms Smyth

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

P7 Confirmation Retreat

James from AMMA Centre P6 in-class support

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**

James from AMMA Centre P6 in-class support

**March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Confirmation in St Jarlath's Church 5pm

Educational Psychologist to visit P5 pupil

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Ballyhegan Gaelic Blitz

First Confession for rest of P4 pupils (in school)

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**

P6/7 Gaelic Tournament in Port Mor O'Neill's GAC

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Last day of placement for St Mary's Student

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Forest School Taster - Gosford - Ms Smyth

Diocesan Advisor Visit (Mary Hampsey)

SEN Stock take

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Bee Safe - Bus to park in school grounds

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

First Aid Refresher Course - M Mhic Iomhair & Mrs Keenan

Moy Football Blitz

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Non-Uniform in aid of Heart Beat Trust

First Aid Refresher Course - M Mhic Iomhair & Mrs Keenan

Design Meeting re: New Boiler House

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Jonathan Roper - IMAX Board Training

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Last Burns Soccer Session

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Early Closure 11.15 & 11.30am for Easter Break

PSG Easter Raffle

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Baker Day 5

**April 18<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

School Closed for Easter Break

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

BT Engineer to transfer to new internet router

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

P6/7 Football Match in Blackwatertown

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Armagh County Board Camogie Coach (Micheal Murphy) for P6/7 girls (6 weeks)

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**

School Match - Athletic Grounds

New P5 (Sept '22) to visit school today

RISE NI visit with P3 pupil

April 28<sup>th</sup>

RISE NI Speech & Language Therapist to visit P2 pupil & Interpreter with P3 pupil

Aileen McGuinness gaelic coach to start today (P5,6,7) for 6/7 weeks

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

School closed for Bank Holiday

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Flourish Training (RE/RSE Catholic Schools) Ms Smyth & Mrs Vallely

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

RISE Team course (Understanding Language in FS) online - Ms Smyth & Miss Jordan

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

EA One Training Session online - D McLoughlin

**May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Heartbeat Trust Presentation

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI visit with P3 pupil

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**

P7 Leaver's Photo - Ulster Gazette

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**

First Holy Communion 11am St Jarlath's Church

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

CTF Course online - D McLoughlin

**May 18<sup>th</sup>**

EWO visit - attendance audit

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

New P2 pupil (Sept '22) to visit school

New P4 pupil (Sept '22) to visit school

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Go Games Tullysaran P6/7

Jamie from AMMA Centre - teachers MINECRAFT

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

School Nurses - P1 Appraisals

EA End of Year Course - D McLoughlin

CSS Land Survey doing topographical survey of school Re; Boiler house replacement (outside only)

RISE NI assessment for P2 pupil

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

Fundamentals Family Fun Day

**May 30<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>**

School Development Days 4 & 5



**June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

School Closed for mid-term break bank holiday & Queen's Jubilee

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

RISE NI Class observation with P3 pupil

**June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Physio Assessment with P2 pupil

RISE NI Meeting with teacher of P3 pupil & parents & interpreter

Operation Encompass CPSS - online meeting - Ms Smyth

**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

St Patrick's Grammar intake test

St Catherine's College intake test

**June 9<sup>th</sup>**

School Sport's Day

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

P7 Summer Trip to Tayto Park

Joan McMenemy - last day of counselling

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

P1 Summer Trip to Peter Pan's Neverland Portadown

P6 Boys taster day in St Patrick's Grammar Armagh

**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

P6 Summer trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre

Last session with Aileen McGuinness - gaelic coach

EA End of Year online course - D McLoughlin

P6/7 Last session with Camogie coach

**June 16<sup>th</sup>**

P3 Summer trip to Sheepsbridge in Newry

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Reports go out today

Indoor hurling blitz in Tullysaran

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

P4 & P5 Summer trip to Airtastic Craigavon

RISE NI Meeting online with parents of P2 pupil & teachers

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

P2 Summer trip to Peter Pan's Neverland in Portadown

End of Year Mass in St Jarlath's Church

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Jersey Day

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Last day for P7 Class & P7 Leaver's Assembly

**June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Core Group Meeting - Ms Smyth

**June 25<sup>th</sup>**

P1 Induction Day

**June 30<sup>th</sup>**

Early Closure for Summer Holidays

**July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Parentpay Start of New Year online course - D McLoughlin

Maintenance officer (Julie McMahon) & contractors to visit re: ladies  
toilets update