

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO PARENTS FOR THE YEAR 2014 - 2015

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Members

Chair Person / DENI Rep:	Mr John Hall
DENI Representative:	Mrs Siobhan Rogan
WELB Representatives	Mrs Katherine Wilson, Mr Roddy Tierney, Rev Jane Nelson
Elected Parent Representatives:	Mrs Karen Connelly, Mrs Breda O’Kane
Elected Teacher Representative:	Mr Tony Campbell
Acting Principal, Acting Honorary Secretary:	Mrs Winifred Winters

Term of Office: 30-06-14 until 29-12-18

Mr Jonathan Gray, the Principal, was seconded to the National Association of Head Teachers Northern Ireland as President, for the Academic Year 2014/15.

Discharge of Functions:

In the discharge of their functions the governors held three full Board meetings and numerous committee meetings throughout the year.

Matters dealt with included finance; governor training; monitoring the School Development Plan; amended policies and procedures including Risk Assessments, the building of the new school and staffing issues including appointments, redundancies and retirements; and pupil issues including admissions, sanctions and achievements in various areas including accreditation.

This work has included

- All governors have had in-house training of the Curriculum and Pastoral Care at Arvalee
- The majority of governors have up-to-date CASS training provided by EA Western Region
- Declaration of Interest in place (in place for all Arvalee staff also)
- Completion of Internal Audit and Fire Inspection and results/outcomes reported to all governors
- All governors have visited some classes to look at pupil learning
- Reviewed the work of the Acting Principal as part of the PRSD procedure

CHILD PROTECTION

If parents had any concern about their child’s safety they could have contacted Mrs Nadine Grant, Vice Principal responsible for Pastoral Care and Discipline, who is the school’s Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Martina Flanagan, Head of Pastoral Care Senior School, who is the Deputy Designated Teacher, or Mrs Winifred Winters, the Acting Principal.

The Child protection Policy was reviewed and updated in line with the Principal’s secondment and the Governor for Child Protection and Chair where up-dated on CP issues 2014/15. All the Governors attended Strand 1 Training.

STAFFING

The Board of Governors reviewed the staffing provision in line with the Education Authority funding. This year the Governors facilitated the retirement of Mrs Eleanor Maxwell and Mr Paul Rooney and the School wishes them all the best in the future. The work also included monitoring the development of staff including the review of the Principals development.



SCHOOL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

The Governors oversaw the School leadership developing and implementing the following areas.

a. School Community Support: Communication, Public Relations and supporting others:

The School recognises the great support of the community and the work of the company's that support the Inspiration Project. It is important that the community hears of the great work that the students complete and their achievements. The following are some of the highlights that the Governors believe emphasise the community support and how the school is supporting others.

- The development of Web Site is updated regularly.
- The Team Enterprise pupils in Post 16 attended the award ceremony in City Hall after their great work.
- The further development of the Collaborative schools as the school 4 pupils from other schools.
- The Inspiration Project held a celebration Dinner in June and a video was created which showed the great learning experiences that the company's sponsor. The activities that the pupils got through this project were Dance Drama, horse riding at the RDA, Guitar and Band Tutor, Alternative Therapies, Music Service, Early Learning Music experiences, Nerve Centre Projects and Art & Crafts.
- A fun day was held for the pupils that included a concert from two local singers Ritchie Remo and Jordan O'Keefe.
- The school got involved in many international events that included a Chinese New Year Celebration, visits from Hindu Community who talked about the culture with pupils and a visit from African Marathon Runners who introduced the pupils to life in Africa and their intensive training routine.
- Over the year the pupils attended many sporting events that included success in the IFA inter Special Schools football competition. It was great to see Kieran McNulty go forward to train with the Northern Ireland Learning Difficulty Football Team.
- The pupils also supported charities raising money for Marie Curie and Special Olympics.
- Throughout the year the School has had great support from local businesses, the SW College and the Camphill Community who all provide great work related experiences for the Post 16 students through visits, work experiences and workshops
- This year also saw Jacqueline Leonard in the final of Dairy Council Young Cook of the Year.

b. Curriculum

The Governors acknowledge the work and commitment of all the staff and have monitored the development of areas that are prioritised for development. This is a brief outline of the developments this year.

- **Processes in Mathematics:**
 - The staff continued to develop this area with the support from EA and considered the book 'Lines of Development' within their practice. The school ordered addition materials in line with these developments to support pupils learning.
- **ICT and the use of iPads:**
 - Staff received Development Courses in
 - Creative Use of iPads by Nerve Centre
 - Mobile devices in SEN classroom by the AMMA Centre
 - Internal support including App of the Month supporting developing teacher sharing and investigation. Work was also completed in exploring Apps such as Prologo2 to support communication.
 - Two classes developed projects where pupils used iPads to make a story and videos. The projects were showcased at the Nerve Centre, School Assembly and in the Junior School Record of Achievement celebration with parents.
- **World Around Us and Learning for Life and Work and Personal Development:**
 - The outings pupils took into the community were evaluated according to learning intentions and value for money due the cost of all transport on the schools delegated budget. The Governors agreed that the Weekly



bus would be used more effectively to include visits to town, Gortin Glens and the XL programme based on the curriculum that was required for the pupils. This policy was implemented that supported the planned visits to enhance learning.

- The Independent Travel training for senior pupils has been a feature of the ASDAN PSD Unit with pupils using public transport.
- **Sensory Room:**
 - The guidelines, Policy and Procedures were reviewed to support the development of pupil learning programmes. A handbook with identified learning intentions for the different pieces of equipment was produced and made available for all staff.
- **Pupil Progress Files:**
 - The staff team has carried out a review of the Pupil Progress Files and has implemented the new procedures to ensure that the appropriate information is retained to track pupil learning and development.
 - As part of this review staff implemented Communication Passports with the support of the Speech and Language Therapists to ensure that Communication strategies that support each pupil is passed on to all staff.
- **Home Economics:**
 - Distribution of new CCEA specification and Introduction next year of CCEA EL Home Economics
 - Highlighting Healthy Eating Week
 - Introduction of new foods in line with Eating Programmes
 - Young Cook of the Year Entries
 - Need to re-visit scheme
- **Accreditation and Qualifications**
 - The pupils achieved the following accreditation and qualifications

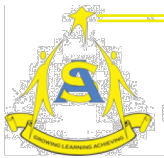
School Improvement Targets	KS 4/5 (predictions) 2014/15					
	EL 1	EL 2	EL 3	L 1	L 2	
Essential Skills Literacy (EL to Level 2)	36%	18%	46%	-	-	
Essential Skills Numeracy (EL to Level 2)	45%	22%	33%	-	-	
XI (LLW: PD EL to Level 2)	-	-	50%	50%	-	
PSD (Asdan EL to Level 2)	72%	10%	18%	-	-	
PE (CCEA EL)	25%	50%	25%	N/A	N/A	
Art and Design	25%	-	75%	N/A	N/A	
Occupational Studies	Ungraded 3% (due to attendance)			22%	74%	
Duke of Edinburgh	Bronze	35%	Silver	47%	Gold	18%

- The Governors would congratulate all the pupils on their achievements

c. Pastoral:

The Governors acknowledge to complexity of the pastoral issues and challenges that are within the school and the work of staff to focus on the needs of individual pupils to support their learning. The Governors monitored development in the following areas.

- **The development of the Arvalee School Learning Support Team:**
 - The support team reviewed the Staff Pastoral Policy files and developed the referral system to get additional support.
 - This team has developed working practices to support staff to develop the skills and strategies to support learning of pupils with a range of complex educational needs.
- **The development of Paths programme for Schools:**
 - The Paths Programme is a programme to support the development of self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem solving. The programme has been piloted with 4 trained staff and has supported



pupils in expressing how they feel and controlling their behaviour. It is supported by the ongoing development of our Take Ten resource that trains pupils to control their heart rate and stay calm. The Governors support the future development of this programme throughout the school.

- **Lego Clubs:**

- Through the work of the Autism Support Advisory Service team the school accessed training in developing Lego clubs to support pupil learning to work together and interact to achieve an outcome. The clubs ran with the sponsorship of Cannon Hygiene.

- **Staff Development:**

- Some of the staff development has been highlighted above. In addition to this the Governors have noted that staff have also received significant training in
 - The management of medical issues for individual pupils and also general training in conditions such as epilepsy
 - Two Staff received training in Attention Autism in preparation for the implementation as a prioritised development in the incoming year.
 - All teachers completed the PRSD process.
 - Medical Training up-dates were held for all staff engaged in the Summer Scheme.

d. Finances, Buildings and resource development:

This year the Governors continued their work in ensuring that the learning environment in the school was fit for purpose and safe for pupils as well as ensuring that the plans for the new school are appropriate.

- **Declaration of Interests**

- All staff signed the declarations of interests.

- **Full School Audit**

- The School received an Internal Audit from the EA auditing department. The school was deemed as satisfactory any issues were addressed immediately.

- **Fire Safety**

- The school completed the annual Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Inspection and was deemed compliant with the basic training scheduled for August 2015.
- The signs for Assembly Point and 'Strictly No Parking' sign for the gate at the canteen were put in place and the car park marking completed to ensure the building is accessible, ordered and clear for evacuation.

- **Playground**

- The additional markings were put in place in the playground that supports the development of activities for pupils. Flower beds and pretend play areas were developed in the Junior Playground to enhance outdoor learning.

- **Internal work**

- The ongoing review of the building has seen work on the external doors continue.

- **The development of the new school Building on the Gortin Road**

- The Governors have continued to monitor the work and plans of the new school building. The work commenced in March 2015 and the Governors have charged Mr Gray with the responsibility of monitoring this work. Mr Gray will be returning in September 2015 and will continue this work.



Financial Report 2014/15

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014/15

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	
Balance b/f August 2015	943.84	General Class Requisites	524.80
Repayment from Extended Schools	869.00	Cancer Focus	14.00
Commission from Photographs	150.00	Special Olympics	150.00
Staff Fund Raiser (Marie Curie)	363.00	Marie Curie	363.00
Pupil Contribution (Gortatole Trip)	810.00	Donnelly's Bus Hire	300.00
Parents Association (Purchase of Camera)	139.00	Sports Day Medals / Engraving	82.40
Wolfe Tones GFC (Donation)	125.00	Hospitality (interviews)	88.27
Diary Council (Prize Money)	100.00	Hospitality First Communion	97.53
Balmoral Show (Pupil Contribution)	230.00	Horticulture Resources	38.37
Special Olympics Fund Raiser	150.00	Summer Scheme	1000.00
Team Enterprise (Prize Money)	100.00	Competition Fees/Entry	80.00
Omagh Credit Union (Donation)	200.00	Expenses Xmas Jumper Day	35.89
African Appeal	223.00	Repair of Tents	48.00
Cannon Hygiene (Donation)	300.00	Math's Resources	81.00
Balance for Castlerock Trip	6.30	Apps for iPads	384.77
Reimbursement for Earphones (Pupil)	16.00	Payment Adjustment 02 Bill	31.58
Interest 2014/15	0.93	IT Equipment/Repairs	81.87
Uncashed cheque (000528)	35.89	Lego Club	289.00
		Tickets for Balmoral Show	120.00
		Signs for Car Park	21.03
		Annual Fees Bank a/c	45.81
		Fee Credit Card	25.00
		Balance c/f August 2015	859.64
	4,761.96		4,761.96

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (90 DAY SAVINGS)

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Balance b/f July 2014	26,790.80	Balance as at 31 st July 2015	26,817.72
Interest March 2015	26.92		
	26,817.72		26,817.72

NEW SCHOOL BUILD DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Balance b/f July 2014	24,634.03	Balance as at 26 th August 2015	24,646.03
Interest	12.00		
	24,646.03		24,646.03