



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO PARENTS FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Members

Chair Person / DENI Rep:	Mr John Hall
DENI Representative:	Mr William Young
WELB Representatives	Mrs Katherine Wilson, Mr Roddy Tierney, Mr Andrew Gordon,
Elected Parent Representatives:	Mrs Joyce Thompson, Mr Peadar McElhatton
Elected Teacher Representative:	Mrs Marie Taggart
Principal, Honorary Secretary:	Mr Jonathan Gray

Term of Office: 30-12-10 until 29-12-14

Discharge of Functions:

In the discharge of their functions the governors held six full Board meetings and numerous committee meetings throughout the year dealing with: finance; governor training; monitoring the School Development Plan; amending policies and procedures including Risk Assessments; the new school build; staffing issues including appointments; pupil issues including admissions, sanctions and achievements in various areas including accreditation.

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 Mr Jonathan Gray, the Principal or Ms Kathleen Gallagher (Head of Pastoral Care Junior School)

SCHOOL POLICIES

Arvalee School Policies continued to be developed and up-dated

SCHOOL TERMS 2014 -15

Autumn:	01 Sept– 19 Dec	Mid Term:	27 Oct – 3 Nov	
Spring:	05 Jan – 2 April	Mid Term:	16 Feb – 23 Feb	St Patrick' Day: 17 March
Summer:	13 April – 26 June			Bank Holidays: 4 May / 25 May
Staff Development Days:	22 August / 27 - 28 October / 18 - 20 February / 2 April			

STAFFING

To facilitate the release of a teacher to work in the home of a pupil with complex needs and to work one-to-one with other pupils with significant challenges a new teacher was employed and four extra classroom assistants to meet the needs of individual pupils and groups.

TRANSITION PLANNING, CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

The transition process continues to be well planned for and proves a useful tool in identifying individual learning / training career paths for our students. Mrs Helen Hannigan (WELB) and Mrs Jackie McCutcheon (WHSST) who are both transition officers, worked with our Year 10 students in January to prepare them for their Transition meetings.

PASTORAL CARE

Our aim in Arvalee School is to enable all pupils to develop their personal identity and self-worth and at the same time develop respect for others. Our Pastoral Programme in Arvalee is wide and varied and the following are some of the activities and services available to our children and young people;

- PSNI Drama Production on Drug Education (Strule Arts Centre)
- Barnardo's Counselling Service
- Mencap Programmes – Inspire Me (Post 16 and Key Stage 4)
- Just Ask Programme – FPA –Secondary pupils
- New Possibilities Programme – Nexus NI – Key Stage 4
- Health Promotion Initiatives
- Whole-school Anti-bullying day – 22nd October 2013
- Girls' Talk – (In-house for primary girls)
- PSNI Talk on Crime and its Consequences
- Healthy Relationships Workshop – Crannog Lodge
- Mencap Transition Service



- Sensory Programme with Avril Taylor

Management of the medical needs of our pupils in Arvalee School was co-ordinated by Nadine Grant assisted by Claire Gallagher and Paula Clarke. Care Plans and relevant risk assessments are in place for children with medical conditions and these are reviewed annually. Relevant staff receive regular training in the management of medical conditions and the administering of medication.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS PROJECTS

This was the fifth year for Arvalee School to be involved in the Extended Schools Programme. Many of our pupils' social and communication skills improved through drama and music workshops.

Extended Schools also supported the Outdoor Programme in Arvalee. Primary and Secondary classes enjoyed gardening, environmental trails, hillwalking, canoeing etc. Many of our Secondary children experienced and enjoyed residential subsidised by Extended Schools.

Through language and communication development, children became more confident, functional communicators.

This year we offered aromatherapy classes to parents and staff which had very positive feedback. Many staff now use their new skills with our pupils who benefit from sensory experiences.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Fifteen young people took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze and Silver level.

Some of these young people successfully completed their cycling proficiency and went on to do their expedition on bicycles.....a first for Arvalee School!

KEY STAGE 1 & 2

Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils participated in activities to promote physical development and well-being. These programs were delivered weekly for the year by the IFA and GAA. The children thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

Key Stage 1 and 2 looked forward to their weekly music with a tutor from the WELB. The activities helped develop listening, music making and social skills.

Mrs Mellon and Mrs Quinn's Class participated in the Enrichment Programme organised by the Loreto Grammar School where our pupils participated in a variety of learning activities such as cooking music art and craft and gardening.

KEY STAGE 3

Pupils in Key Stage 3 continued to have access to the full range of Learning Areas of the N.I. Curriculum. Some pupils also went to Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre in February for a short residential. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience and it gave them a chance to sample the sort of activities awaiting them in Key Stage 4 and Post 16 when participating in the Princes Trust XL and Duke of Edinburgh schemes. Pupils also had regular opportunities to hone their skills in Dance and Movement with tutor Chris Cross and individual tuition from Rory McKee for guitar, drums and singing. They were then able to showcase their developing talents at the Inspiration Night in June 2014.

POST 16

Post 16 pupils continued to study for one day at SWC, carry out where relevant one day Work Experience and study Essential Skills in Numeracy and Literacy, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award as well as being involved in Team Enterprise. Some Post 16 pupils continued to develop skills in ASDAN Personal Progress, Princes Trust XL and ASDAN Personal and Social Development.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience continues to be an important part of the Post 16 Curriculum where the majority of pupils at this stage in their Arvalee education are placed for one day a week. Arvalee School continues to maintain excellent relationships with local employers and there were over 20 different employment places in use during this academic year. Year 12 pupils had one day a week Work Experience for the summer term. All pupils keep Work diaries and they are visited regularly at their placements by the Work Experience Co-ordinator for Arvalee.

TEAM ENTERPRISE

Team Enterprise had another successful year at Arvalee School. The Arvalee Company called itself 'Busy Bees' and the pupils involved bought materials and manufactured products which sold very well in school and at various events. The team won the 'Best Display' at Omagh Trade Fair which was organised by Young Enterprise. At the end of May the team was entered and won the 'Best Team' in the Sperrins and Lakelands Board Area. Pupils and staff enjoyed a lovely presentation ceremony and gala dinner hosted at Belfast City Hall.



QUALIFICATIONS

Our pupils at KS4 and Post 16 continue to achieve relevant qualifications in a range of subjects. Most notable among the achievements in the academic year 2013-14 were the excellent results in Occupational Studies at South West College where pupils studying Digital technology all achieved Level 2 equivalent to A-C at GCSE. Other qualifications included ELQ Art where almost all pupils received the top grade and where many pupils work was chosen by CCEA as exemplary material. ELQ P.E. was equally as successful where pupils were outstanding on their moderation day and the CCEA moderator commenting on the excellent roll out of the subject. ASDAN continues to be the Awarding Body for many of our students and the successes there were also exemplary with feedback from moderators on the high quality of teaching and learning throughout Personal Progress and Personal and Social Development in putting together samples of work for moderation. Princes Trust XL continues to provide our pupils with a relevant course in developing team building skills and preparation for work.

SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

St. John's High School Dromore and Dean Maguirc Carrickmore had a number of pupils attending Arvalee for a collaborative project in 2013-14. This project has had excellent feedback and there are plans for this project to continue. Pupils from the two mainstream schools mix with Arvalee pupils for a morning programme of Essential Skills – Numeracy and Princes Trust XL. One highlight from the year was a luncheon for all parents which was organised, cooked and served by the pupils from the 3 schools.

INSPIRATION PROJECT

In June 2014 pupils from Arvalee School entertained an audience at a special dinner for the Inspiration Project sponsors. The Inspiration Project is the brainchild of Mr Jason Sawyers a parent of a pupil in Arvalee and he has organised more than 20 sponsors who have each pledged £1000 over the next 5 years. The money raised will be used to provide an enhanced curriculum of Aromatherapy; guitar, band and drum tutoring; Jo Jingles; dance; ICT projects and Art & Crafts. The night was a total success and Arvalee pupils were the highlight! They sang solos, duets, they performed in 'Stealth Mode - Arvalee's answer to a rock band and they danced in style finishing off with a wonderful rendition of Gangnam Style.

The money raised on the night came to a marvellous profit of £1000 and all the sponsors and Arvalee staff were treated to a fabulous dinner and a disco.

ARVALEE FIRST SCHOOL FORMAL

Arvalee held its first formal on 10th April 2014 which was held at the Silverbirch Hotel and was attended by 56 pupils aged 16 – 19 years. The formal was organised by a committee of 5 staff. Part of the ticket was subsidised by Friends of Arvalee, leaving the pupils only £20 to pay and minimising the cost for parents.

The night itself started with a great buzz when a number of our pupils arrived in limousines and all pupils arrived looking fabulous in their formal gear. They were greeted in the foyer by a 'shloer' reception and tea & coffee was served for parents. Pupils were then given the opportunity to have a professional photograph taken. After mingling in the foyer pupils then made their way to the main function room without their parents. The pupils enjoyed a night of great fun and surprises – a 3 course meal, spot prizes, a draw with prizes, a sweet trolley, a photo booth and a special cake with the Arvalee crest not to mention all the dancing.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The importance of Staff Development for Curriculum and Pastoral issues in Arvalee continued. Team Teach for all staff was up-dated; Epilepsy Awareness, Manual Handling, Buccal Midazolam & VNS medical training for relevant staff was also up-dated; Interactive Whiteboard training, Intensive Interaction, Phonics and ASD training from WELB ASAS for all staff took place on Staff development days. Relevant staff also attended courses in PECS, Princes Trust XL training, Essential Skills courses in Literacy and Numeracy, CCEA course in Thematic Units for PMLD, RSE training, Health & Safety in TD and ASDAN courses.

SCHOOL SECURITY

The Board and Leadership/Management of the school continue to keep school security under review. The Fire on the night of 31 August 2012 has increased the concern regarding site Security and Fire Safety measures. Fire Drills were carried out termly.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

The Architects for the new school build - Isherwood and Ellis met with WELB, Arvalee Board of Governors, Mr Gray and the school Senior Management Team and other staff of specialist subjects on a regular basis during 2013/14 to add detail to the design. The plans were further developed to take account of interior finishes and room lay-outs and the plans were finalized. The building of the new school is set to start in February 2015.



2013/14 Arvalee Financial Statements

Income & Expenditure Account (90 day Savings Account) 2013 / 14			
Balance b/f July 2013	£26,758.70	Balance as at 31st July 2014	£26,790.80
Interest March 2014	£32.10		
	£26,790.80		£26,790.80

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2013/2014			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance August 2013	£5,892.81	General Class Requisites	£550.64
Omagh anglers Donation	£1,000.00	English Resources	£1,256.07
Pupil Contribution (Trips)	£1,200.00	I.T. Resources	£643.93
Cappagh Young Farmers Donation	£400.00	Maths Resources	£155.84
Proceeds form Bake Sale	£90.00	Select Kids (Spare Ties)	£29.70
Pupil Contribution Gortatole	£630.00	BBC Children in Need	£35.99
Sale of Reindeer Food (Hospice)	£53.00	N. I. Children's Hospice	£53.00
Team Enterprise (Prize money)	£150.00	Bus and Taxi Hire	£659.00
Cancer Focus	£14.00	WELB - Gortatole	£630.00
Comission from Photographs	£200.00	Archery Requisites	£108.00
Pupil Contribution Theatre Group	£30.00	Catering - Lisanelly Meetings	£105.00
Pupil Contribution End of Term Trips	£72.70	Flowers for Formal	£75.00
Interest	£4.61	Shelton Travel	£1,853.00
Uncashed Cheque 000515	£18.49	Bizzy Bees Prize Money Refund	£150.00
		RDA Funds raised in school	£90.00
		Presentation Flowers/ Hospitality for Prizegiving	£80.28
		Primary Santa Gifts / Xmas Tree	£84.00
		Horticulture Resources	£130.57
		Hire of Bikes for Residential / Repair of Bikes	£451.74
		Balmoral Show Tickets	£210.00
		End of Term Trips	£198.32
		Cycling Ireland Reg. Fee	£50.00
		Walking Boots	£46.49
		Summer Scheme/ Summer Scheme Requisites	£1,099.45
		Fees	£65.75
		Balance August 2014	£943.84
	£9,755.61		£9,755.61

Cranny Special School - Hydrotherapy Pool Fund 2013/14			
Balance b/f July 2013	£24,565.20	Balance as at 26th August 2014	£24,634.03
Interest	£68.83		
	£24,634.03		£24,634.03

I certify that these records are a true and accurate reflection of the School Fund Account:

Signed: John Hall

Date: 30/9/2014