

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT

2016 – 2017



*SION MILLS CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL
THE PARK
SION MILLS*

Principal: Mrs O McNelis Phone: 028 816 58249

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As Chairperson of Sion Mills Primary School Board of Governors I would like to express my appreciation to the Staff and the Board of Governors. Good teamwork continues to be a key feature of our school as everyone strives to build on previous successes. I would like to thank all of the governors for their hard work and dedication of their time and commitment to the work of our school.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new pupils and parents and wish them a long and happy association with our school. I would like to thank you as parents for your on-going support towards the school.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Governors I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Governors' Report and would commend it to you.

Yours sincerely

Mr. H. Friar.
(CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS)

Dear Parents,

I write this Annual Governors' Report, on behalf of the governors to provide you with a summary of events and activities, which take place in school. It aims to give you some information on the organisation and its financing and how the Governors and others with responsibilities have carried out their duties.

As Principal I would personally like to thank the staff for their continued hard work and support. The governors have shown tremendous allegiance to the school and its aims and have worked tirelessly at many late night meetings to support the procedures, practices and governance of our school I would like to thank the Governors both past and new for their support and I commend the report to you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. O McNelis
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

TEACHING STAFF

2016/2017

PRINCIPAL:	Mrs O McNelis
VICE-PRINCIPAL:	Mrs W Kee
ASSISTANT TEACHERS:	Mrs V Campbell Mrs A Maguire (Nursery) Mrs G McAleer Miss D McGinley Mrs B Sproule Mrs M Hendron Mrs L Kingh Miss K Brown Miss D Walsh (Speech & Lang. Class) Mrs L Lynch (Learning Support)

STAFFING

Staffing is largely dependent upon the number of pupils enrolled at the school and the number admitted in September 2016 was 21. The school's admission number is 48 and enrolment number 217.

52 children were admitted to the Nursery Unit. There are 12 children in the Speech and Language class.

Staffing Complement for 2016/2017

Teaching Complement- Principal, Vice Principal, 9 teachers and 1 part-time teacher

Ancillary Staff -	1 Full-time Secretary	36 hours p.w.
	2 Full-time Classroom Assistants P1&P2	25 hours p.w.
	3 Full-time Classroom Assistants (Special Needs)	27.5 hours p.w.
	4 Part-time Classroom Assistant (Special Needs)	25 hours p.w.
	1 Term-time Speech & Language C/A	25 hours p.w.
	1 Full time Nursery Assistant	32.5 hours p.w.
	3 Part time Cleaners	10 hours p.w.
	1 Building Supervisor with supervision responsibility	36 hours p.w.
	4 Lunch-time Supervisory Assistants	5 hours p.w.
	1 Senior Supervisor	5 hours p.w.

During the year, teachers were actively engaged in weekly Curriculum Planning during 'Directed time'. Directed time operated in line with ever strengthening union directives. 2016 – 2017 was a challenging year as cuts to the overall education budget impacted more deeply. All staff attended in-service courses facilitated by the

EA's Advisory Service and school based INSET. School based INSET is a planned programme of professional development closely linked to the School Development Plan and shows our commitment to achieving a life long learning community.

Snapshots from 2016 -2017



Koulla Yiasouma, NI Children's Commissioner is welcomed to the Shared Education Assembly by pupils from Sion Mills & Strabane P.S.



Koulla meets Sion Mills Student Council members.



Winners in the Eco Schools Poster Competition



Eco Team proudly 'show off' their second Green Flag



Safeguarding NI present Internet Safety to P.4 & P.5.



Author, Joe Brennan, shared some writing tips with the classes

Summary of Year September 2016 – June 2017

This was a very busy year for the school with many achievements and lots to celebrate. I would like to thank all parents, staff and governors for their support both for myself and also other staff members.

This is a short summary of some of the highlights during the 2016/17 year.

The year began in mid-September with a two-week notification of an inspection which was to take place on 3rd – 5th October. Whilst the staff had been expecting this, it is never-the-less a stressful experience both preparing and executing delivery on the days the team visit the school.

The staff were very pleased with the outcome of the inspection, “Sion Mills Primary School and Nursery Unit demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners.”, *Report of an Inspection in October 2016*, Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016.

The inspection team conducted the inspection with great professionalism towards both staff and pupils. They left the staff and governors with a positive sense of the good work that goes on in the school and with useful pointers to map future development onto.

There were many school and sporting activities enabled through Extended Schools and Getting Ready to Learn funding; such as football, netball, ball handling skills, parent programmes, breakfast club, dance classes, sculpture making, speech and language, art club, homework club and. All these have been very successful and enjoyed by children and parents alike. Well done to the children for their sporting success in outside matches against other schools. We would especially like to congratulate the Netball team who won the Strabane area finals and Caoimhe Brown who won the Strabane Area Netball Player of the Year.

Sure Start programmes continued to be a feature of local provision. There is now a Play and Stay programme for 1 and 2 year olds, Baby Yoga, Baby Massage and a Health Promoting Homes programme. These have been so well supported that there is now a 3 day a week Crèche facility on top of the above programme.

During 2016-2017 a number of excellent support programmes got going, having been initiated in the previous year.

Families Together, a five year initiative, has been a superb support to the pastoral care needs of the school population. This programme is facilitated by Dr Maria Herron and offers a range of support to parents and children including counselling and workshops for parents and /or children.

SACHEL an 18 month initiative provided training and support for P1 & P2 to build on Sure Start provision. Staff were trained in ELKLAN, a speech and language

programme as well as provision of a speech therapist to work with groups of children. Media Initiative training, an early year's programme on equality issues was also provided for P1 and P2 teachers.

Getting Ready to Learn – This is an ongoing initiative from the Department for Education that provided funding for the purchase of books and support materials to encourage adults to read with Nursery children. Mrs Maguire ran support sessions to promote ideas on making sharing books fun.

All three programmes facilitated parenting programmes.

Visitors to the school included theatre companies Konflux and Safeguarding NI who presented a bespoke drama for P4 & P5 children to alert them to the dangers of devices that can access the internet. In June our P7 pupils and their peers from Strabane P.S. rounded off an excellent shared Education project with an assembly. Their invited guest, as well as parents and governors of both schools was Koulla Yiasouma, the N.I. Children's Commissioner.

The P1 – 3 children were responsible for putting on an excellent Christmas Show. Other visitors taught the children about drugs, alcohol, puberty awareness, safety in the community, fire safety and water safety awareness. Our clergy visit the school regularly and are most welcome guests.

The P5/6 children were involved in the Diwali Festival show in the Alley Theatre and the children especially enjoyed the Indian dancing classes provided by the Strabane Ethnic Minority members.

We continue to support local charities and this year raised money for the Shoe box appeal, Trocaire and Christian Aid. This all requires great effort so well done to all involved. The P.F.T.A. continue to support the school in many ways both by buying equipment and running events such as the Hallowe'en disco, the Teddy Bears picnic, the Sponsored Walk in Baronscourt and providing tea/coffee and snacks on Sport's Day. My thanks to all parents and Miss Brown and Mrs Maguire for their hard work. We are also most grateful to Jimmy Hendry who put on a fantastic Gala Concert, with a line-up of country music stars, in The Fir Trees, Strabane on 14th November in aid of School Funds.

Trips included, Gortin Forest Park, Redcastle, Londonderry/Derry, Strabane Library, Cinema, W5, Belfast and the P7 residential to Dublin.

We continue to develop our skills and knowledge as a staff. Our Accelerated Reading and Athletics programmes continue to strengthen adding a technological dimension to reading and Maths.

SHARED EDUCATION

The D.S.C. Shared Education programme, facilitated by Miss Brown has gone from strength to strength. Three classes joined with their peers from Strabane P.S. to engage in learning projects. The main thrust underpinning this funding is “Better Together” so teachers are required to provide programmes that improve the learning for children because they do it together with new people. As the numbers of children involved increase and they meet year on year new relationships are built and staff can avail of opportunities to develop their professionalism and expertise with colleagues from another school.

Collaboration with St Theresa’s P.S., Glebe, St Columba’s P.S., Clady and St Eugene’s P.S., Victoria Bridge continues to strengthen as part of an Extended Schools’ Cluster Group. The four schools work together to provide joint opportunities for parents and children to work together.

PREMISES

After a recent inspection of the school premises, the Governors expressed their satisfaction at the standard of maintenance and cleaning. They wish to thank the caretaker Mr. M. Alexander and the cleaning staff for their continued good work.

ATTENDANCE

TOTAL DAYS ATTENDED BY ALL PUPILS ON ROLL, AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE DAYS ATTENDANCE: 94.2%

The Governors strongly encourage families to take annual holidays during the school holiday periods.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Mrs Louise Lynch was responsible for Learning Support in this year. This help has been expanded to include small group support for aspects of Literacy and Numeracy. We continued Maths is Fun after school classes together with a Lego club as part of our Extended Schools’ programme.

CHILD PROTECTION

A Child Protection policy operates here in Sion Mills PS and this is reviewed yearly and approved by the Board of Governors. All parents received a copy of the parents’ leaflet. The care, welfare and safety of each child is our overriding concern. Therefore the school shall refer any concerns about the well being of any of its pupils to the Social Services Department and to the Education Authority, Western Region (EA,WR) to protect pupils in its care and to comply with the Department of Education (NI) regulations. The designated teacher for child protection is Mrs Kee and the

deputy-designated teacher is Mrs McNelis. In the Nursery Mrs Maguire is the Designated teacher. If a parent has any concerns in the area of child protection, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kee. Parents will receive a summary Child Protection help sheet or can access the policy on the school website. Flow diagrams of how Child Protection procedures operate are on display in all entrance halls.

DRUGS EDUCATION

The school has a commitment to educating children about the dangers of drugs, smoking and alcohol abuse. The school follows the Hope Drug and Alcohol programme. Should any parent wish to receive a copy of these policies please contact the office. There is a continued commitment to overall health and well-being which was reflected in previous years by our Health Promoting Schools (Gold Awards). Although this award is no longer available to schools we have achieved three consecutive awards and continue to promote healthy choices amongst our pupils. Our Extended Schools programme offers extra-curricular activities many of which are sports/health related.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

(As per section 7:5 of the 1998 N.I. Act)

This school operates an equal opportunities policy where there will be no discrimination regarding race, gender, religion, mental and or physical disability.

ACCESSIBILITY

The school will provide, within reason, equal access to all parts of the building and all aspects of the curriculum for pupils with disabilities. There are three disabled toilets with all the required disability access. The school is entirely a single storey building with no steps and therefore wheelchair friendly. There is a ramp in the car park for wheelchair access. All external doors are locked and require an alarm system release button or an adult to open from inside the building.

CURRICULUM POLICY

The school produces plans and schemes of work in line with the Northern Ireland policy document.

S.E.N.

The school works closely with the Educational Psychology Service to support the children with special educational needs. There are **100** children on the SEN register and this includes the children with Speech & Language difficulties. Mrs L Lynch works two days a week with groups of children from P4 – P7 some of whom are at Stages 1 or 2 of the SEN register. These groups engage in extra Literacy and Numeracy and education plans are drawn up and agreed with parents, teachers and children. Children on Stage 3 of the SEN register are referred to the Education Authority (E.A.) for specific support.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council overseen by Miss McGinley had a very successful year with some very competent boys and girls from P1 - P7 ensuring that the pupils' voice was heard and information was fed back to the pupils. The school council meets regularly and has two representatives from every class. The boys and girls look very smart as they carry out their duties, wearing specially designed t-shirts. The group organised a number of events in school, including the hugely popular Sion's Got Talent at Christmas, the very successful Sponsor a Book campaign and oversaw the selection of the Playground Buddies. Requests to school managers were made by the council on behalf of their peers and in 2016/17 saw the introduction of after school dance classes and a clock in the assembly hall. Koulla Yiasouma, the NI Children's Commissioner was most impressed by the calibre of the young people on our council.

ECO COUNCIL

The children of the Eco Committee, led by Mrs Kingh and Mrs Shepherd, continued their work on recycling and reusing. Their first job in September was to oversee Malcolm raise our second Eco Schools' Green Flag. Later in the year the Ninjas, as the Eco Team call themselves, were involved in the Big Spring Clean Up around the school and village. In the autumn term the Eco Committee team ran a Cash for Clobber programme which raised funds that they then used to purchase plants for every classroom and for the raised beds outside.

In the summer term the Ninjas promoted and oversaw the annual walk, scoot or cycle to school week. We are extremely proud of our active Eco Team Ninjas who keep us actively involved in important environmental issues.



2016 – 2017 Netball Squad who won the Strabane Area competition

THE FINANCIAL REPORT 2016/2017 Sion Mills Primary School

The school is now fully delegated and has responsibility for the management of its own budget. This is calculated by EAWR using its own formula but in the main the budget allocation is based on the age and **number of pupils** attending the school and the number of children eligible for free school meals. Sion Mills initial budget allocation for the financial year 2016/2017 was **£754,068** with **£30,655** for school and cluster extended schools funding.

The Board of Governors' is responsible for the distribution of moneys from the school's allocated budget and the day to day administration is looked after by the Principal and Secretary.

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Savings/Deficit from 2015/16	-170	Teaching Staff	579,276
Budget Share 2016/2017	754,068	Non-Teaching Staff	133,571
		Fuel Oil	12,900
Extended Schools	30,655	Electricity	7,897
Closing Schools Funding Adj.	2,576	Water	4,187
		Toilet Requisites	199
DE - CFF Additional Funds	4,553	Protective Clothing	74
		Waste Disposal	768
		Maintenance of Building	488
Getting Ready To Learn	1,509	Maintenance of Grounds	7,851
		Maintenance of Furn/Fittings	378
		Telephones	651
Total Allocation	793,191	Printing & Stationery	65
		Photocopying	4,074
Other Income	27,458	Advertising	293
		Food	239
Letting of Facilities	1,650	Contractual Cleaning	30,182
		Professional Fees	4,024
		Hire of Transport	2,767
		Books & Practice Materials	12,209
		Licence Fees	1,363
		School Cont.- Instruments	1,291
		Activities & Events	2,475
		Hire of Equip/Facilities	675
		Hire of Security Services	140
		School Swim Programme	490
		SUB TOTAL	808,527
Rounding Adjustment	-1	Carry Over 2017/2018	13,771
TOTAL	822,298	TOTAL	822,298

Prepared By: Mrs O McNelis & Mrs. I. Lynch.

Date: 26/09/2017

Approved By: Mr. H. Friar (Chairman of the Board of Governors) Date: 26/09/2017

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT 2016/2017

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Opening Balance	11,677.06	Books & Equipment	758.42
		Fees/Refunds	363.71
Donations	862.20	Shows	1,084.00
Trips	2,214.00	School Uniforms	734.50
Sports	248.00	Sports	415.75
Shows	1,577.20	Services	129.00
Xmas Show	1,830.00	Swimming Programme	2,375.00
Equipment	36.62	Staff Training	600.00
Trans / Select Acc	1,082.00	Plants	286.11
Photos	420.76	Gifts & Flowers	112.00
Training	1,260.00	Trips/P7 Trip	3,338.95
School Uniforms	1,336.00	Transport	56.00
P7 School Trip	2,865.00	Photos	109.59
Hospitality	109.20	Access NI	33.00
Football	178.00	Charities	1,218.84
Charities	1,554.73	Licence Fees	35.00
		Stamps	362.12
		Hospitality	524.55
		SUB TOTAL	£12,536.54
		Savings C/F 2017/18	£14,714.23
TOTAL	£ 27,250.77		£27,250.77

Prepared by: Mrs O McNelis & Mrs I Lynch

Dated: 02.08.2017

Approved by: Mr H Friar (Chairman of Board of Governors)

Dated: 02.08.2017