

STEWARTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



GOVERNORS' REPORT 2014 – 2015

STEWARTSTOWN NO. 2 PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT

2014-2015

Dear Parent,

We are delighted to present this copy of the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for Stewartstown Primary School for 2014 - 2015.

Over last year much has been accomplished by the team work of pupils, parents, staff and Board of Governors' members.

Our aim for Stewartstown Primary School is to ensure that each child reaches his/her maximum potential in a caring environment that pursues excellence in education.

As Annual Parents' meetings no longer need to be held, this school welcomes comments and opinions from parents on this report and any other issue concerning the school and its pupils. If you wish to comment or seek clarification on this report or indeed any aspect of school life please contact Mr. Marlin, Ms Bolton or myself.

Yours faithfully,

S Dougherty
Chairperson

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2014-2015

STEWARTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Chairperson: Mrs Sandra Dougherty

Secretary: Mr. W. Marlin & Ms. K. Bolton
Stewartstown No. 2 Primary School
33 Hillhead
STEWARTSTOWN

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. G. Ferguson
Mrs. J. Miller

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. M. Glendinning
Mr. W. Armstrong
Mrs. S. Dougherty
Mr. J. Glendinning

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. C. Bell
Mrs. K. Curry

ASSISTANT TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Miss N. Black

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of 3 times each year but in practice meet more often than this.

Definition from the Department of Education (Every school a good school policy framework):

“The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all pupils. This involves setting the strategic direction for the school; and taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors.”

The responsibilities of the governors are:

1. The oversight of the curriculum.
2. The control of the budget.
3. The provision of information to parents.
4. The selection of staff.
5. The maintenance of the premises (shared responsibility with SELB).
6. The Admissions Policy.
7. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

STAFFING COMPLEMENT

Teaching Complement

Mr. W.A. Marlin	Co-Principal & P5-7 Teacher
Ms K. Bolton	Co- Principal & P5-7 Teacher
Miss A. Artt	Part-time Teacher (P1-2)
Miss N Black	Part-time Teacher (P1-2)
Miss N. Black	Part-time Music tutor & P3/4 Teacher

Ancillary Staff

Miss E. Ferguson	Secretary
Mrs. M. Taggart	Classroom Assistant
Miss E. Ferguson	Classroom Assistant Lunchtime Supervisor
Ms. H. Newell	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mr. T. Watters	Building Supervisor
Mrs. M. Corr	Cleaner & Dining Attendant
Mrs. E. Junk	Crossing Patrol

Annual Attendance Rate

Attendance at the school was generally very good.

The average attendance for the year 2014 / 15 was 97.2%

Board of Governors Calendar – 2014/15

SEPTEMBER 2014	1st	School re-opens
	16 th	P5-7 trip to the Giant's Causeway
	23 rd	P5-7 trip to Tullyhogue Fort Excavation
OCTOBER 2014	23 rd	Halloween Disco 6pm-7pm TBC
	22 nd	Fire Drill & fire safety talk
	23 rd - 24 th	SENDO training KB
	24 th	Non Uniform Day
	27-31 st	Half Term
NOVEMBER 2014	6 th	Craft Fair 6pm-9pm
	10 th	Flu Vaccination Week
	12 th	Internet Safety Talk (a) P5-7 pupils = 11:30am (b) Parents = 7pm
	13 th	Photographer - 11am
	27 th - 28 th	KB attended Child Protection training
DECEMBER 2014	3 rd	WW1 talk
	4 th	P1-7 trip to the Craic Theatre Panto
	12 th	Cookstown in Harmony
	15 th	P1-2 trip to Speedwell
	17 th	Christmas Concert
	18 th	P1-4 Adventure World Treat
	22 nd Dec	Holidays commence
JANUARY 2015	5 th	School re-opens. Start of Helping Hands Project
	21 st	Bee Safe exhibition P5-7 Fire Drill
	22 nd	P1-4 trip to Armagh County Museum
FEBRUARY 2015	6 th	Wear it – Beat it Wear red to school, donate £1 to fight heart disease
	16 th – 18 th	Half Term
	25 th	Billy Dixon Night
MARCH 2015	2 nd – 6 th	Dungannon Festival
	5 th	World Book Day – dress up as a well-known character
	11 th	Joint productions with Ballylifford Primary School in each school
	12 th	
	13 th	Red Nose Day
16 th – 17 th	Holidays	
APRIL 2015	13 th	School re-opens
	21 st	Fire Drill
	24 th	Visit from the Bird Man
MAY 2015	4 th	Bank Holiday
	6 th	P5-7 trip to Oxford Island
	7 th	School closed - election
	18 th -22 nd	Bible Fun Week
	25 th	Bank Holiday
JUNE 2015	10 th	Child Protection Training
	23 rd	P5-7 trip to the Share Centre
	30 th	Term ends

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The school year 2014/15 has been a successful one in which many noteworthy achievements have been made in all aspects of schoolwork.

Our teachers have continued to place the development of a caring relationship with the pupils high on their list of priorities. The good relationships in the school have been evident to the governors on the occasions when they visited the school.

A cause for concern had been the low numbers of enrolment, something which is not unique to Stewartstown Primary School. However our numbers have been on the rise over the past 10 years, which is a huge positive to focus on. We are pleased that we have attracted many children for whom Stewartstown Primary School is not the nearest primary school. On the positive side our pupil/teacher ratio is less than 16:1 which is much lower than local or national ratios.

THE CURRICULUM

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, more apparent than real as much of what is to be taught has been determined by law.

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. To this end the school has implemented the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The school continues to provide help for pupils with learning difficulties. Progress in a selected number of subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum is formally assessed and written results are provided to parents of children who were at the end of KS1 and KS2.

During the school year all pupils participated in World Around Us projects. Many aspects of the new curriculum were covered and all children benefited from these educational visits.

Education for Mutual Understanding is not only concerned with external relationships but also with relationships in our own school. The governors are pleased to note the caring emphasis that is at the heart of the school life, and the respect which the children are encouraged to develop for themselves, other pupils and adults.

A French specialist from Le Club Francais gave French lessons to P.3 – P.7 pupils for 1 hour and 15 minutes per week.

The governors are conscious that the number of curriculum changes has greatly increased the pressure on the staff and wish at this point to recognise the existence of this pressure and acknowledge the work that has been done to ensure a smooth implementation of the changes.

ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES FOR YEAR 2014/15

KEY STAGE 1 and KEY STAGE 2

Levels	1	2	3	4	5
English KS1					
Boys		100%			
Girls		100%			
English KS2					
Boys				100%	
Girls			100%		

Levels	1	2	3	4	5
Mathematics KS1					
Boys		100%			
Girls		100%			
Mathematics KS2					
Boys				100%	
Girls				100%	

Northern Ireland Averages 2012–2013 Year

	English L.1	English L.2	English L.3	English L.4	English L.5	Maths L.1	Maths L.2	Maths L.3	Maths L.4	Maths L.5
KS1 Children	6.03%	53.77%	40.44%			5.03%	47.87%	46.76%		
KS2 Children	0.41%	2.66%	14.86%	49.52%	32.51%	0.46%	2.19%	14.35%	40.44%	42.83%

From September 2012 the Department of Education put new arrangements in place for the statutory assessment of Communication and Using Mathematics in key Stages 1 and 2. Pupils in Year 4 and Year 7 are involved in Statutory assessment as organised by CEA (Curriculum Council for

Examinations and Assessment). In Year 4 it is expected that children, of average ability or above, will attain Level 2 or above in Communication and using Mathematics and in Year 7, children of average ability or above, will attain level 4 or above in Communication and Using Mathematics. [Due to a boycott by the main teaching unions, no data was sent this year to the Department regarding levels.]

P7 LEAVERS 2014-2015

Number of pupils transferring: 2

Cookstown High School: 1

Magherafelt High School: 1

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The pupils of Stewartstown Primary School are given coaching in a variety of sports both during and after normal school hours. Coaching is in: (i) badminton, (ii) football, (iii) rounders, (iv) swimming, (v) hockey, (vi) gymnastics, (vii) table tennis and (viii) basketball.

As well as receiving coaching in the above sports P.4 to P.7 pupils also enjoyed extra after school tuition in cookery, craft, gardening and computers. The iPad club and Zumba also proved to be very popular additions to the range of after school activities.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Links between the school and parents were actively promoted during the school year as part of the liaison programme. Each parent received an individual invitation to meet his/her child's teacher and a variety of meetings and special events were held for parents (see Calendar of events).

SCHOOL LIAISON WITH PARENTS

This school has an Open Door Policy and encourages parents to take an active part in their child's education, school activities and events. The school seeks to inform parents of school activities through the monthly 'School News', updates, parent teacher interviews, reports and school events.

OUTTURN STATEMENT

The school's balance of -£11,845 was carried forward to April 2015. This surplus, however, will be needed over the next couple of years to compensate for extra running costs and a reduced budget. The 'School Fund Account' also had a healthy balance of approximately £5K.

The governors wish to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to the principal and staff of the school (teaching and non-teaching) for both their high level of commitment and the high standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom. Parents must also be commended for their support of the staff in achieving this high level of success. Thanks are also due to the E.A.'s Advisory Staff and to the representatives of various external agencies who visited the school during the year.

The governors, like the school staff, appreciate your support in maintaining a high standard of discipline within the school for it is this respect for authority which has a profound effect on the development of our pupils.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

The school year 2014/15 proved to be a very busy, successful and enjoyable year to all concerned. All children were provided with the opportunity to participate in several educational visits which provided the basis for much curriculum work. (See Calendar of Events). The standard of work and behaviour of our children is something of which we are very proud.

This year the school further cemented the good relationship with St. Mary's Primary School with the meetings of a cluster group for Extended Schools!

Many pupils again participated at Dungannon Music and Drama Festival where as usual the school won several certificates and medals for performances of a high standard. However our musical talents were not restricted to Dungannon as the senior choir entertained a large audience at our annual Christmas Concert on 17th December. Yet again the standard of our Christmas Concert was quite amazing.

Enthusiasm for sport still prevails at Stewartstown Primary School as is evident by the number of pupils who stayed for coaching in sports – even staying after school on a Friday!

Once more all the pupils contributed to a very entertaining school magazine. The fact that **all** the pupils contributed made it truly a school magazine.

BEHAVIOUR

The staff continues to be very proud not only of the children’s participation in the numerous events but also in the excellent standard of behaviour in school and when out representing the school. The staff is also very appreciative of the parents’ support in all matters.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

The school has a very effective security system installed. The school Principal has a monitor in his classroom and this enables them to see who wishes to enter the school. On recognising the person the Principal simply presses a button which in turn unlocks the front door. The remaining doors are also locked to prevent unwelcome people entering the school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Closure dates and topics covered in the staff development days are indicated in the table below.

27 th Oct 28 th Oct 29 th Oct	Thematic Unit Planning Mathletic Training Reviewed Accelerated Reader Policy Review Schedule Cred Project Planning Analysis of Parental Questionnaires
18 th Feb	OT resourcing Review of selected policies Mathletics & Spellodrome taster sessions
16 th March	Thinking Skill Resources Timetabling for Classroom Assistants Anti – Bullying Policy

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The staff is fully aware of the importance of keeping the Child Protection Policy under review and of keeping parents informed about procedures pertaining to Child Protection.

PARENTS COUNCIL – FRIENDS OF STEWARTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY 2014-2015

FOSPS achieved a lot in relation to fundraising. We wish to extend our thanks to those parents who supported the school during the year, both in joining the committee, attending meetings and most importantly all parents who supported the fundraising events. Every penny raised by the group goes directly to helping your child. We will continue to encourage parents to engage with the group and help support the school.

The fundraising events kicked off with a Hallowe'en disco which was enjoyed by many.

The annual November craft fair once again proved very popular with the local community and was a fantastic opportunity to open our doors to the wider public.

A Christmas Raffle was organised and supported by parents who helped collect prizes and sell tickets.

A Billy Dixon Night was held in February where ladies came in their droves to seek professional style advice from Mr Dixon. It proved to be a very entertaining and fun filled evening.

A carwash was held in school in May which was once again widely supported by parents and other members of the community.

Throughout the year monies raised helped subsidise school trips, purchase of additional laptops and iPads, maintain the school website as well as facilitate the painting of the interior.

Event	Amount Raised
Halloween Disco	£120
Craft Fair	£905
Christmas Raffle	£1447
Billy Dixon Night	£1615
Car Wash	£365
Total	£4452