



BOARD OF GOVERNORS'
ANNUAL REPORT
for
2024 - 2025



As Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Lisbellaw Primary School I present this foreword to the Board of Governors Report for 2024-2025. During the year we welcomed Tara Taylor-Craig and Kerry Johnston onto the Board of Governors, and we thank our outgoing Governors, Ruth Moore and Sharon Armstrong for their combined years of service to our school.

We congratulate Mrs Ginn and Miss Mcllwaine on their permanent appointments to their roles in the Learning Support Class and we thank them both for their dedication and commitment throughout the school year and for supporting the children with all of their achievements.

We also offer our congratulations to Mrs Lucy on her permanent position as our Year 4 teacher and we thank Miss Byers for providing maternity cover in Year 2. We congratulate Mrs Condell and her family on the birth of her baby son.

We thank our Mandarin teacher, Mia who taught all year groups over the last two years and was very popular with the children. We also thank our classroom assistant Mrs McWilliams who left during the year.

Our school choir have had another busy year from performing at various school events in addition to the harvest concert at Lisbellaw Parish Church, Ballyreagh Silver Band's 150th anniversary concert and the Peace Proms in the SSE arena. The children continue to excel not only with their musical talents but also in developing their confidence with each performance. We thank Mrs Foy and Mrs Catterson for all of the support and guidance they have given to the children throughout the year.

Our school community enjoyed a harvest assembly with a significant range of food products being donated to Enniskillen Foodbank. Parents, family and friends also joined us for Christmas performances from our nursery and Year 7 class.

Health Week proved to be another great success this year with all pupils engaged in physical activity throughout the week with an additional focus on mental health. A sponsored fitness fun day with Fitness Freddy also raised funds for our school library hub and we thank everyone for their support.

A group of our Year 7 pupils attended the Ulster Scots festival in Halwick, Scotland returning with the Reivers' trophy for the third year running.

Our children have continued to excel in a number of extracurricular activities including football and netball in addition to achieving success in all year groups at the Fermanagh Feis and Fermanagh County Show. It is noteworthy that the school has won the Eileen Magee Cup at Fermanagh County Show every year since 1999.

We are indebted to our Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) who have raised over £10,000 during the year from various events and fundraising initiatives including the launch of the school cookbook, Christmas coffee morning and bake sale with Santa's grotto and the summer fete. The funds raised have been mainly used in the development of our new school library hub, however, these events are also important in providing the entire school community with an opportunity to come together socially. We extend our thanks to the generosity of parents and the wider community including our local businesses who have supported the events organised by the PTA.

Our Year 7 children ended the school year on a high with a very entertaining performance of "Pirates of the Curry Bean". The level of talent from the children was exceptional and they are a credit to themselves and their families. We wish them all the very best in their new schools.

We also thank staff and parents for their contributions to the updating of our school ethos which forms the basis of our approach to school life in the years ahead.

"We are a kind and caring community with a Christian ethos where all are valued, encouraged to learn and respectful of others".

I trust that in reading this report you will be provided with an overview of the activities undertaken and enjoyed by our children throughout the school year. It should be acknowledged that all of the events, activities and trips could not happen without the time and dedication of our principal, Mr Kilfedder and all of the staff within the school.

Gary Black
October 2025

Lisbellaw Primary School

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CHAIRMAN: Mr G Black
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs A Orr
HON SECRETARY: Mr J Kilfedder

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

Mr G Black Mrs A Graham Rev W Jeffrey Miss F Boyd

EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs A Orr Mrs Z Johnston

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES (appointed November 2024)

Mrs K Johnston Mrs T Taylor-Craig

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs S Auterson

PRINCIPAL

Mr J Kilfedder (Non-voting member)

The four-year term of office of the Board listed above began in October 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. The Board is required to meet at least three times a year. Sub-committees also meet throughout the year. Some of the responsibilities include:

1. The delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum
2. Staff Appointments
3. Admissions Policy and Open Enrolment
4. Self-Evaluation and School Development Planning
5. Policy Review
6. Budget Management
7. Performance Review & Staff Development
8. Promoting Positive Behaviour
9. Salary Review
10. Responding to Department of Education and EA Initiatives
11. Fostering links with the local community

ENROLMENT

During 2024/25 our enrolment was 201 (including Nursery)

Average daily attendance was 95.8%. This very good attendance result is indicative of the positive attitude which the pupils have to attendance. Staff attendance was excellent.

STAFFING

Staffing is dependent upon the number of pupils enrolled at the school.

TEACHING COMPLEMENT: Principal and 8.7 Teachers (includes a part-time Nursery teacher)

ANCILLARY STAFF: Executive Officer, Building Supervisor (full time), 2 cleaners and 3 Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants.

YEAR GROUP	NO	TEACHER	CLASSROOM ASSISTANT	SEN
NURSERY	30	Mrs Saunders	Mrs Johnston and Mrs McCleery	
LSC	4	Mrs Ginn		Miss McIlwaine
YEAR 1	24	Mrs Beavers	Mrs Balfour	
YEAR 2	13	Miss Byers	Mrs McWilliams	
YEAR 3	17	Mrs Catterson		Mrs Beatty
YEAR 4	25	Mrs Lucy		Mrs Stewart
YEAR 5	30	Mrs Foy		Mrs Harkin
YEAR 6	25	Miss McKeon		Mrs Connors
YEAR 7	33	Mrs Auterson	Mrs Bailey	Mrs Young

Principal

Mr Kilfedder

Executive Officer

Mrs Stratton

Caretaker

Mr Bonner

Lunch Supervisors

Mrs Harkin, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Greaves

Catering Unit Supervisor

Mr Moutray

Cook

Mrs Little

Catering Assistants

Mrs Patterson, Mrs Putikova

Cleaners

Mr Bonner, Mrs Connolly/Mr Wylie

School begins at 9.05 a.m. finishing at 1.45 p.m. (Yr 1 – 2) & 3.00 p.m. (Yr 3 – 7).

The Governors very much appreciate the efforts of all members of staff in helping to provide an environment in which our children can fulfil their potential. The high standards achieved by the pupils reflect the excellent work from all our staff. Lisbellaw Primary School is fortunate to have such highly motivated and talented staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our pupils have access to the best educational experiences possible.

The school terms and closures for 2024/2025 year were:

Term 1: 29th August – 25th October; 4th November – 20th December

Term 2: 6th January – 7th February; 17th February – 11th April

Term 3: 28th April – 30th June

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In-service training was once again a high priority for all our staff with a wide variety of courses (online and face to face) attended. The five 'Baker' days and five Staff Development Days were used to plan and prepare for quality learning and teaching and to address specific issues identified in our School Development Plan. Regular Staff and Senior Leadership meetings ensured consistency of educational experiences for all children.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School Development plan is on the agenda at each meeting of the Board of Governors. It is a three-year rolling School Development Plan. A new three-year plan started in 2023 The areas of focus for 2024 - 2025 were: Mathematics, Literacy, ICT, Nursery and SEN (including Learning Support Class). A detailed plan is available from the school office.

CURRICULUM

Lisbellaw Primary School continued to provide the broad and balanced curriculum detailed in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. As well as the traditional areas of learning, the focus for all our teaching is on the development of our children's skills and level of understanding.

The skills that we aim to develop are:

Cross-Curricular Skills:- Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT.

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities: - Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Managing Information, Being Creative, Self-Management and Working with Others.

The School continued to strive for high achievement and targets were set for pupil progress in Mathematics, ICT and Communication for all classes.

Pupils continued to become more involved in their own learning, setting personal targets for improvement.

Extra-Curricular activities in the form of 'Clubs' on Friday afternoons continued with great success for pupils in Years 3 to 7.

A **Breakfast Club** was well attended throughout the year.

Our **After School Club (Y1 and Y2)** from 1.45 – 3.00 p.m. was very popular and our **Homework Club (Y1 - Y7)** from 3.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. proved to be a great success with many parents appreciating this facility.

A **School Council** was led by Mrs Auterson and proved to be an excellent help to our decision making in school.

Drama - The Image Musical Theatre performed '**The Jungle Book**' and the West Midlands Children's Theatre visited the school and presented "**Pinocchio**" to all pupils.

The **Book Fair** paid a visit with many parents supporting the school and especially their children through the purchase of books.

PASTORAL CARE

Positive Behaviour is promoted throughout the school. We have 'Golden Rules' which the children know and follow. Our 'Playground Pals', 'Headteacher's Award' and 'Celebration Assemblies' promote and acknowledge not only good citizenship and progress, but also good work and behaviour.

Anti-Bullying

Mrs Auterson organised Anti Bullying week (11th - 15th November). Children took part in activities encouraging them to have a better individual and collective understanding of bullying. 'Choose Respect' was the theme for the week.



Mrs Auterson also led an assembly from NSPCC highlighting that bullying is wrong and what to do and who to reach out to if you are being bullied or if you know someone who is being bullied.

Our **Health Education** programme has been greatly developed in recent years to include a number of new initiatives. Throughout 2024/2025, we continued to encourage children to bring healthy 'breaks' to school and emphasised the importance of eating fruit and drinking milk and water.

Health Week 3rd – 7th February 2025

We had a very successful Health Week in school from 3rd – 7th February. During this time children had the opportunity to take part in a variety of physical activities promoting health and well-being. The children also had the opportunity to experience 'hip-hop' dancing through Urban Fitness, play on the apparatus, take part in a mental health art workshop, dress up for a line-dancing day and get involved in a treasure hunt organised by Sustrans.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The school's Learning Support Co-ordinator, Mrs Foy promoted the implementation of the Code of Practice, and the review of provision is on-going in school. Further training was availed of in relation to SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) – legislation which came into effect in September 2021 and is based on a restructuring of how children are categorised according to educational and medical needs, for example. A new register system was compiled following the guidance. A number of Education Authority outreach support teachers visited the school and worked with individual children, following advice from the Psychology Service. Educational Psychologist, Dr. Tara-Jayne Duffy, continued to give a very high level of support to the school. A number of children received extra support with Literacy. These children were normally withdrawn from class for different periods of time during the week although much class-based support also operated and was greatly enhanced by classroom assistants. During the school year 2024/25 our school's S.E.N. register consisted of 42 children (21%) – as of May 2025.

All class teachers are responsible for the pupils with special needs within their class and Personal Learning Plans were implemented for those children requiring them. A Linguistic Phonics programme continued to support children with Reading difficulties. Children with Dyslexia and other difficulties are well

supported in all classes; the school has continued to implement Dyslexia friendly strategies.

A newly created Learning Support Class was given permanent status in September 2023. Mrs Ginn (Teacher) and Miss McIlwaine (Special Needs Classroom Assistant) took charge of this and have had another very successful year however, with numbers growing I'd be very keen to push the Statutory Assessment and Review Service team for additional assistance as soon as possible.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment procedures are an integral part of the learning and teaching process in the school. Diagnostic, formative, summative and evaluative assessments are carried out to ensure that pupils are achieving their potential. All Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 children completed GL digital assessments in May. Y7 also completed CCEA's Adaptive Assessments and Y1 completed Language Links in September. Teachers met with parents in October and in April to discuss children's progress and set targets accordingly.

Key Stage Assessment Outcomes

All Primary Schools are required to assess pupils' progress in Literacy and Using Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 4) and Key Stage 2 (Year 7).

DESTINATION OF 2024/25 SCHOOL LEAVERS

Devenish College - 17 Enniskillen Royal Grammar School - 14

Enniskillen Integrated College – 2

COMMUNITY LINKS

The Board of Governors would like to acknowledge the vital contribution made by parents in supporting their child's education, particularly over the last number of years. The Pre-School Programme provided the opportunity for parents of the September 2024 intake to be introduced to the school during the previous May. An Information Evening for parents in September 2024 informed parents about the procedures in the new class, the curriculum for the incoming year and how best to support their child's education. Parents received a written report, sent home in June. Other initiatives to promote community relations included a

Harvest Assembly, Christmas Nativity, Christmas sing song in the village (including the turn on of the Christmas lights with Tattygar PS), PTA Coffee morning, County Show entries, Stay and Play initiative, Lisbellaw's Little Ones, sporting events (rugby, netball, hockey, football, cross country and kwik cricket) and our end-of-year summer Fête.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Governors and staff are greatly indebted to the Parent Teachers' Association. The funds raised provided access to Education City (Maths and Literacy software) along with reading and maths books. The PTA also paid for part of the GL Assessment materials used to inform future planning and intervention programmes, a new school rugby kit, waterproofs for Y1 and Y2, Smart sacks for Y1 and our Twinkl subscription. It was lovely to see events return, after a period of absence, and to have some new events added to the calendar. Some of the events included a Halloween Movie Night, Christmas Hamper and Party Day, a Valentine's Disco, Easter Egg Hunt, Break the Rules Day and our extremely successful end-of-year Summer Fête.



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

An update on what we did in 2024/25



This money along with the balance in our account allowed us to write a cheque to school for £7000 in March 2025.

How funds have been used by school

This year all money donated has been directly allocated towards part-funding the new library hub in what was the P4 resource area.

This vital project will help to create a modern and enriching learning environment for our students.



Thank You

To all the parents, guardians, grandparents, staff and friends of the school, the PTA Committee would like to say a very big THANK YOU for your wonderful support this year.

We sincerely appreciate your unwavering attendance, donations and willingness to always lend a hand!

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

We continue to emphasise the enjoyment and health benefits of a wide variety of sports, dance, gymnastics, athletics and swimming.

Swimming

Pupils from Years 5, 6 and 7 took part in swimming lessons at the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum. All of the children taking part enjoyed their swimming lessons with many achieving Swimming Awards.

Football

Our Football Team took part in various competitions throughout the year. They represented the school and played in competitions at the Primary Schools' football competition at Fivemiletown College, large schools' blitz at the Bawnacre, an indoor tournament at the Lakeland Forum and also at the Greg Turley competition at Enniskillen Integrated College.



Netball - Our netball team had great success and came home winners of the Fivemiletown College competition.

Cycling Proficiency - Pupils in Year Seven were awarded Level 1 and Level 2 Cycling Proficiency Certificates upon successful completion of the course. Thank you to the instructors Mrs Auterson and Mr Kilfedder.

Sports Day - In May we had our Sports Day which was very successful. Thank you to the large number of parents and friends that came to support us.

LOCAL COMPETITIONS

The school entered The Fermanagh County Show's School Exhibition showcasing many of the artistic and creative talents our children have. Thank you to the many parents and other relatives that attended the exhibition on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th August. A vast array of work was highly commended with many entries achieving first, second and third place. Well done to all! The Governors wish to congratulate all prize-winners and express thanks to those who put so much time and effort into this local competition. Special thanks to Mrs Catterson, all teachers and classroom assistants.

SECURITY

In the interests of keeping children safe, parents were asked to ensure that the class teachers were aware of any changes to the child's end of day procedures. Evacuation procedures were carried out in school at least once per term. All exits are time locked, controlled from the inside and checked periodically. Visitors report to reception and sign in on arrival. STS provide our alarm and security needs. We now have 16 CCTV cameras covering all areas around the school.

NURSERY

Thirty pupils attended between 9.00 a.m. – 12 noon and were taught by Mrs Saunders (Teacher), Mrs Johnston (Nursery Assistant) and Mrs McCleery (Classroom Assistant). Children in the Nursery enjoyed a wide range of experiences, learning through play in a safe, stimulating and challenging environment. We are grateful to parents who helped in many ways in the Nursery and on trips out of the school.

School Finances:

School Fund: Opening Balance: £68,000.27Cr. – September 2024; Balance Carried Forward: £76,137.23Cr. – August 2025 The School Fund turnover includes staff contingency, Breakfast Club, After School's Club, Homework Club, receipts and payments for school visits, school photographs and miscellaneous items etc. Mrs Stratton (School Secretary) plays an invaluable role in organising/monitoring financial transactions within the school. This coupled with the wide array of other tasks she completes has, once again, helped immensely with the successful running of the school.

E.A. Budget: Total Budget Share: £745,157. Carryover of £34,964 from the previous financial year. School is now in 'category 1b' i.e. Schools with an increasing deficit over 5% or £75,000 and meet the minimum enrolment numbers identified as an indicator of stable enrolment trends in the DE Sustainable Schools Policy (including schools moving from surplus to deficit). Closing balance March 2025 of -£72,230. Our school is critically underfunded and receives no additional support from the Education Authority. Without urgent and adequate investment from the Department of Education, the financial deficit will continue to grow. Schools like ours need proper funding to meet the needs of our pupils and staff. We are indebted to our Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) who during the year presented the school with a cheque for £7,000 from their hard work in organising a number of fundraising initiatives. We extend our thanks to the generosity of parents and the wider community including our local businesses who have supported school financially and the events organised by the PTA.

This completes our Governors' Report for the 2024-2025 school year. As you can see, Lisbellaw Primary School has a lot to celebrate and all in the course of one year. We are extremely proud of the achievements of all of our children, and we would like to thank all of our parents for their on-going support.