



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

2020/21

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CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Dear Parent,

As you are aware, Cregagh Primary's School Motto is 'Together we make a difference'. If ever there was a year when we learnt the importance of working together as a team, it was this one.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought challenges and difficulties that had never been faced before. From the very start, I was extremely proud of the way the staff rallied together to continue to provide the highest level of education that was possible. School staff were concerned not only about the children's educational needs, but also with each family's ability to cope with what was an extremely uncertain time. I'm sure many of you appreciated the emotional support offered as staff tried their best to keep in touch with each family throughout lockdown. I know this required the staff to put in more hours working than if they had been carrying out a normal school day.

Not only did the staff rise to the occasion, but the pupils showed a determination and resilience to try and keep up with the tasks set. I know many parents appreciated the work that the school provided. We also have to praise two of our pupils who are undergoing very serious medical treatments and their fortitude at facing these treatments.

As Governors we want to record our thanks to all members of staff including support and ancillary for their dedication to maintain the high standards that we are used to in Cregagh Primary.

There are always changes in staffing with a school the size of Cregagh and this year was no exception. Miss Currie retired after 38 years' service and I deeply appreciate her commitment to the children and her contribution to the life of the school. I would like to thank Miss Currie and Mrs Fullerton for coming back for a few months to help keep continuity with the children after lockdown. I wish them both a long and happy retirement. Mrs McGarrigle and Mrs Woods have moved to new schools and I wish them every success.

The most exciting development for us to look forward to is the delivery of our Belfast Investment Funded project that will see the South-East side of our school's site transformed into spaces for outdoor learning and play, a new multi-purpose building and garden areas. This project was started by Mr Heggarty over five years ago so I must record my thanks for his determination to seeing it through to fruition.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, I wish to express our pride at the many achievements of our children. At Cregagh Primary, all children are being encouraged to develop a great variety of skills and therefore fulfil the potential that lies within each one of them. As Governors that is what we hope to see realised. It is our job as Governors, parents and staff to shower our children with love, praise and encouragement and provide them with every opportunity to develop strategies to cope with whatever this world challenges them with.

Yours sincerely

Moyra Hunter (Chairperson & Safeguarding Governor)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 – 2022

EA REPRESENTATIVES

Ald. Tommy Sandford (Vice- Chair)
Rev. Edward McKenzie
Mr Davy Logan

TRANSFERORS' REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Moyra Hunter
Rev. A. Green (Chair)*
Rev. Robin Aicken

PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. M. McQuiston
Mr A. Gatsi

TEACHERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. M. Larmour

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr D. Heggarty (Principal)

*Safeguarding/Child Protection Governor

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

In March 2020, schools across Northern Ireland were forced to close and enter into a prolonged period of remote-learning for pupils at home due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This unprecedented move was difficult for staff, parents and children but in the true spirit of the school's motto, all stakeholders came together to make a difference. Cregagh Primary School is proud of how it supported its school families during this time, ensuring that the pastoral support to children and families was excellent: including weekly telephone calls home from teachers, support from our Family Engagement Worker Alex Barnes and ongoing support to specific families from school counsellor, Julie Magowan. School also contributed to the local community food bank on several occasions.

Much of the 2020-21 academic year was characterised by periods of "stop-start-stop" with case numbers of Covid rising and falling with each successive wave. School staff were also affected; many having to deal with class closures and periods of remote learning in their own families. If anything, this underlined how all members of our school community were very much "in this together" and had to navigate the pandemic's many challenges as best they could.

Returning after the summer break, school quickly fell into its now well-established Covid routines but we now benefited from a new school entrance and pathway to the rear of the school site. This proved a very welcome addition with parents and children alike. This new entrance, together with new fencing running along the back of the school campus, was provided by the Educational Authority after a Health and Safety report was raised by the principal. The school's chosen areas for development were very much focussed on addressing the loss of learning resulting from the impact of COVID. Naturally, this has been challenging from a teaching and learning standpoint as the pandemic has continued. Other areas identified for further development included: Internet Safety, revising our Anti-Bullying policy and producing a new RSE (Relationship & Sexuality Education) policy. Play, particularly in the Foundation and Key Stage One phases, also continues to be a focus of improvement and expansion.

Work on the Belfast Investment Funded project slowed to a halt during the academic year, with most government offices operating from their workers' homes or even closed. It is very much hoped that this hard fought for project will progress quickly once the pandemic subsides.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support during this particularly difficult year through your attendance at curriculum events, provision of transport, engagement with your child's learning but especially for stepping-up during school closures. It is so encouraging to see the high levels of attendance at parent interviews (even if they had to be online or by telephone) and family engagement workshops (again online).

While we all hope the new academic year doesn't feature school closures, we know we will face and meet future challenges together.

Mr. David Heggarty (Principal)

CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION

If there is concern about a child's welfare the relevant contact people are:

1. **Designated Teacher** – Mrs K. Pearson
2. **Deputy Designated Teacher** – Mr. S. Higginson
3. **School Principal** – Mr D. Heggarty
4. **Designated Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection** – Rev. A. Green*

***This will be changing from September 2021 to Mrs M. Hunter**



SCHOOL AIMS

Cregagh Primary School's aims are clearly stated, published & shared openly. Our school community welcomes everyone of goodwill and proactively seeks to work in partnership with other likeminded organisations, groups and individuals.

- Create a happy, caring, safe and secure atmosphere where children and staff feel valued
- Develop a concern for the needs of others through an understanding of the Christian faith while promoting tolerance, understanding and a respect for others who hold different religious, moral and cultural values from our own
- Teach a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum which extends the children's interests and experiences, providing opportunities for pupils to identify their aptitudes and areas for development
- Recognise individual effort and promote high achievement in all areas
- Develop confidence, resilience, self-esteem and independence in our pupils
- Provide a stimulating and well-resourced learning environment with opportunities for imaginative and creative expression
- Within a learning community ensure equality of opportunity for all and instil a love for life-long learning
- Maintain a partnership between teachers, parents, governors and pupils
- Maintain a strong relationship between school, local churches and the wider community

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Cregagh Primary School aspires to be:

“A Family of Learning at the Heart of our Community” – working in partnership with the entire community, growing and learning together, celebrating inclusion, and respecting diversity.

THE CURRICULUM

In addition to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, we endeavour to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of responsibility and a respect for the property and feelings of others.

A variety of teaching approaches is adopted, based on practical experience whenever possible, with children working in class, small group and individual situations. All classes go on educational visits, with the Primary 7 pupils enjoying residential experiences. Unfortunately, most educational visits including our annual residential trip were not able to go ahead during the 2020-21 academic year due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

There are 7 mainstream classes of mixed ability plus two Hearing Impaired classes with specialist teachers of the deaf. Currently there is no Vice-Principal but a very able Senior Leadership Team shares responsibility for Pastoral Care, Special Educational Needs and Assessment. A part-time learning support teacher provides literacy and numeracy support and several outreach teachers from the Education Authority provide additional teaching for a small number of pupils.

The statutory assessment procedures are in place with each child receiving an Annual Report, and the Primary 7's receiving a Record of Achievement at the end of June (suspended June 2021 due to Covid). Parents also have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher on 2 formal occasions in the year to discuss progress; as well as an initial 'Meet the Teacher' meeting at the start of each new academic year. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with their child's teacher and the principal is happy to meet with parents who may have a concern about their child's progress or welfare.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS

The Covid pandemic affected the assessment calendar throughout 2020-21 and this included End of Key Stage Assessments not being administered nor data collected.



Internal assessment of children’s learning, both cumulative and summative, did continue and clearly highlighted the impact the closing of schools had on many children’s progress.

Cregagh Primary School continues to carefully monitor and track each individual pupil’s progress. Due to out-of-date DENI data, we continue to use what official information is at our disposal and compare school’s annual attainment and performance with previous years’ outcome such as those below:

	<i>DENI Benchmark*</i> CPS's FSM Band 6 50.00-59.99 % (CPS @ 55.4%)	<i>Most Recent</i> CPS Attainment	<i>2018-19</i> Difference between DENI Benchmark & CPS Attainment	<i>2017-18</i> Difference between DENI Benchmark & CPS Attainment	<i>2016-17</i> Difference between DENI Benchmark & CPS Attainment	<i>2015-16</i> Difference between DENI Benchmark & CPS Attainment	<i>2014-15</i> Difference between DENI Benchmark & CPS Attainment
KS1 Communication (L2 or above)	78.7%	88%	+ 9.3 %	+ 11.3 %	+ 16.3 %	+ 2.3 %	- 1.9 %
KS2 Communication (L4 or above)	63.4%	90%	+ 26.6 %	+ 4.6 %	+ 1.8 %	+ 1.2 %	- 10.2 %
KS1 Using Maths (L2 or above)	79.8%	96%	+ 16.2 %	+ 10.2 %	+ 15.2 %	+ 0.7 %	- 9.4 %
KS2 Using Maths (L4 or above)	64.3 %	90%	+ 25.7%	+ 3.7 %	+ 5.3 %	+ 0.6 %	- 13.8 %

TO PASTURES NEW

The process of transferring is still unregulated with two separate systems of academic selection being run by Grammar Schools.

While this undeniably puts some pressure on our children, we as a staff try to support them in preparing for the tests. Additional teaching is available for pupils whose parents decide to enter them for the tests. This takes place outside of normal learning times.

In September 2021, our P7 pupils will commence learning in the following primary schools:

Aquinas Grammar

Ashfield Boys'

Ashfield Girls'

Breda Academy

Dundonald High

Lagan College

Grosvenor Grammar

Malone Integrated

Priory College

Strathearn

Wellington College



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

In 2020-2021 there were, on average 166 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage reflecting the ongoing impact of Covid at 93.6%

CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL - DELEGATED BUDGET 2020-21

DE Common Funding Formula Allocation 2020-21	£598,061
Total planned expenditure 2020-21	£613,620
Draw down on 2019-20 Carry-Over Surplus	- £ 15,558
Remaining available surplus 2020-21	£ 53,110

School entered into a surplus financial position having recovered monies from Belfast City Council relating to utility costs: electric, gas and water. End of fiscal year processes by DE & EA reallocated

As of November 2021 (the time of the writing of this report), Cregagh Primary School is classed by the EA as being a Financial Category 5* school meaning it is, “living within the CFF allocation with a surplus balance at year end below 5% or 75k (whichever is the lesser).”



*EA classify schools into one of 5 categories: with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best.