



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2023-2024



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CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2023/2024 Cregagh Primary School and Deaf Unit Annual Report.

The Governors of Cregagh Primary School work closely with the Principal, Mr. Heggarty, and the staff to ensure the school provides the best possible education for your children. We are responsible for setting and overseeing various policies that guide the school in fulfilling its aims and objectives.

The Governors would like to once again express our appreciation for the hard work of both the teaching and non-teaching staff, who consistently promote the academic success, safety and well-being of the children.

This year, I would like to highlight two special events:

We were very pleased to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Pospiech to the school to unveil the very special Buddy Bench. This is a lasting tribute to Mateusz, who loved nothing more than to sit with a friend and chat.

The school's production of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies was another highlight. It was heartwarming to see so many children participate and showcase talents that aren't always visible in the classroom. Since productions were paused due to the Covid pandemic, this one was very enthusiastically welcomed by all.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Heggarty and the staff for their tireless dedication to achieving the very best for our children. Despite financial constraints and numerous other challenges, their commitment remains unwavering.

Yours sincerely,

Moyra Hunter

Chairperson & Safeguarding Governor

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2024 – 2027

EA REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Moyra Hunter* (Chair)

Mr David Logan

Mrs Ruth Jamison

TRANSFERORS' REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Lucy Burden

Rev. Robin Aicken

Rev. Edward McKenzie

PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Ruth Jamison

Mr A. Gatsi

TEACHERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. S. Higginson

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr D. Heggarty (Principal)

NB: The board of governors was reconstituted over autumn 2024/spring 2025 with final appointments being ratified in April 2025

PRINCIPAL'S OVERVIEW REPORT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Cregagh Primary School, Belfast, for the academic year 2023–2024. This report outlines our school's achievements, financial overview, and strategic developments, reflecting our commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive educational environment. Cregagh Primary School, located in South-East Belfast, has been serving the community since 1939. Our school is distinguished by its inclusive ethos, welcoming children from diverse backgrounds and being the only primary school in Northern Ireland with a specialist unit for deaf children.

As per the Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) data for 2023–24, Cregagh Primary School had an average enrolment of 139 pupils. The school employed a dedicated team of teaching and support staff, including specialists for our deaf unit, ensuring tailored educational experiences for all students. During the academic year we welcomed several new teaching assistants onto our staff. We had no retirements or departures. The school governors and staff are cognizant of the population changes within and without the Cregagh estate area and together, we continue to strive for enrolment and school growth in what is a crowded primary school 'marketplace'.

Our curriculum is designed to cater to the individual needs of our pupils, incorporating diagnostic assessments such as Progress in English and Maths (PTE and PTM) to identify areas for support or extension. We maintain open communication with parents through 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in September, parent-teacher consultations in October and May, and comprehensive annual reports issued in June. During the school year, staff, parents and children were canvassed for their views and opinions through questionnaires and other means. The results of these surveys were shared and will be important in feeding into our new cycle of School Development Planning for 2024-2027. We have been busy developing Play throughout our school over the past 12 months and have invested heavily in new play equipment. Play, and also beginning the work that leads to our school becoming a 'Forest School' status-holding school, will continue to be an important area for development for us going forward.

Cregagh Primary School prides itself on its caring and family-based environment. Our pastoral care system supports the well-being of all pupils, with particular attention to the needs of our deaf students and those from diverse cultural backgrounds. We promote inclusivity through various student-led groups, including the Eco Council, School Council, and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Thank you to our Parent Staff Association (PSA) for all the have done and continue to do by way of fund-raising and practical help.

The financial management of Cregagh Primary School adheres to the guidelines set by the Education Authority Northern Ireland. The 2023–24 Outturn Statements provide detailed information on the school's budget allocations and expenditures, ensuring transparency and accountability. In the 2023–24 academic year, Cregagh Primary School participated in the Extended Schools Programme, which aims to enhance educational outcomes for disadvantaged children by offering additional support services. This initiative is part of a broader effort to improve educational achievement across Northern Ireland. This year, all our expenditure was used to provide school counselling and subsidise the running costs of our Breakfast Club. Our school maintains strong ties with the local community through Shared Education initiatives and the Parent Staff Association (PSA). These collaborations foster a supportive network that enriches the educational experience of our pupils.

The 2023–24 academic year has been marked by significant achievements in academic performance, inclusivity, and community engagement. Cregagh Primary School remains committed to its mission of providing a high-quality, inclusive education that meets the needs of all its pupils.

Mr. David Heggarty (Principal)

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

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

● **Designated Teacher** – Mrs K. Pearson

● **Deputy Designated Teacher** – Mr. S. Higginson

● **School Principal** – Mr D. Heggarty

● **Designated Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection** – Mrs M. Hunter



CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL Child Protection



**Any parent who has a concern about a child's welfare are
invited to speak to our Child Protection Team**

Other Important Contacts

Social Services Gateway Team 028 90 507 000
PSNI Public Protection Unit 101



SAFEGUARDING (Child Protection)

Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility



HOW A PARENT CAN 'REPORT A CONCERN' ABOUT A CHILD'S SAFETY

Any parent can report a concern regarding the safety of their child or any other child

Step 1

"I have a concern about my child (or any other child)"



Step 2

"I can talk to the *class teacher* of this child"



Step 3

"If I am still concerned, I can talk to *Mrs Pearson, the Designated Teacher*"

(or if Mrs Pearson is unavailable, Mr Higginson, the Deputy Designated Teacher)



Step 4

"If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal (Mr Heggarty)"



Step 5

"If I am still concerned, I can talk or write to Mrs Moyra Hunter, Chairperson of the Board of Governors & Safeguarding Governor"



Step 6

"Also, at any time I can contact the following ..."

Social Services (Knockbreda Centre, Belfast)

Telephone: 028 90 631770

Police Service NI – ask for the Child Protection Unit, Newtownards –

Telephone: 0845 600 8000

DR/S/C/11/January 2025

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.

ASPIRE. BELIEVE. BELONG. ACHIEVE

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 to Castlewellan Castle and Forest Park.

There are 7 mainstream classes of mixed ability plus two Hearing Impaired classes with specialist teachers of the deaf. Our two Senior Teachers and Senior Leadership Team shares oversight responsibility for Safeguarding and Pastoral Care, Curriculum, 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 each year. 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 at any time throughout the school year.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS

Internal assessment of children's learning, both cumulative and summative, did take place 2023-2024 despite ongoing industrial action by education unions preventing End of Key Stage Outcomes being reported; which are after all only one measure. Cregagh Primary School continued to carefully monitor and track each individual pupil's progress. For the purposes of this Annual Report, school is sharing the outcomes of its whole school targets.

Whole School Literacy Targets 2023/2024		Outcome
Overall Target - Raise whole school standardised score average to 100+ by June 2024 Reduce percentage of pupils in stanines 1-3 to 23% (from 30%) Current school average from P1-P7 removing statemented children is 100		2024 overall is 101* +1 from 2023(+6 from 2022) 2023 is 100 +5 from 2022
Specific Targets	Actions	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise attainment to 28% of pupils in P1-P7 scoring in stanine bands 7-9 in PTE test in June 2024 (Currently 27% across 2023 scores; 2022 was 28%; NA is 23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enthuse/engage pupils in the writing process-Free Write. Target P6 reluctant readers – new novels to be purchased for class. Continue to use Reciprocal Reading approaches in P3 (Dec)4,5,6&7 Weekly comprehension tasks-Collins/Lit Shed/ other 	Achieved – 28% June 2024 <small>(Almost/nearly all; 90%+ Most75-90; Majority50-74; A significant minority30-49; a minority 10-29; and very few/a small number –less than 10%).</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise attainments stanines 4-6 for around 50% (P1-P7) (Currently 43%;2022 was 44% - NA is 54%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children to receive high quality teaching of literacy Parental engagement – Bug Club (SH to send out reminders for Seesaw). Identify areas for development from previous year group and your current class. 	Not achieved – 45% increase of 2% from last year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the percentage of pupils in P1-P7 scoring in stanines 1-3 to 23% by June 2024. (Currently 30%; 2022 was 34% - NA is 23%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing support for those children scoring in stanines 1-3: Withdrawal support – Learning support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in class support where possible - in class differentiation – push Reciprocal reading; weekly comprehension tasks. IEPs reviewed 	Not achieved although we reduced from 30% to 27% this year. Two years ago, it was at 34%
Strengths: Overall average seen an improvement from previous year (removal of statemented children's results).		*Statemented children's data not removed from overall scores this year - 2024.
Areas for Development Too many children in the bottom three stanines – identifiable through PTE reports.		

Whole School Numeracy Targets 2023/24		Outcome
Overall Target Raise whole school standardised score average at 100 + by June 2024 Reduce percentage of pupils in stanines 1-3 to 23% (from 33%) Current school average from P1-P7 removing statemented children is 99		*102 overall average (+3 from last year and +10 from 2022). 2023 – was 99 (+7 from 2022)
Specific Targets	Actions	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise % of pupils in P1-P7 scoring in stanine bands 7-9 in PTM tests in May 2024 to 23%+ (currently 23%; 2022 was 9%; NA is 23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teaching staff to plan and implement CPA approach for problem solving Complete additional planner to focus on CPA approach. Upload videos/photographic evidence to Seesaw for MMCK. Administer PTM11 by Feb 2024 (P7) 	Achieved – 33% (+10%) <small>(Almost/nearly all; 90%+ Most75-90; Majority50-74; A significant minority30-49; a minority 10-29; and very few/a small number –less than 10%).</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise attainment stanines 4-6 to 54%+ - P1-P7 (currently 44%; 2022 was 46%; NA is 54%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children to have regular access to CPA teaching & learning through daily mathematics lessons. Continue to develop Problem Solving skills – use of WRM to aid exposure to word style problems. Ensure all areas of Maths are covered before tests commence. E.g. data handling seems to be an area that needs developed (P4-P6). 	41% not achieved (more have jumped to stanines 7-9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the overall percentage of pupils in P1-P7 scoring in stanines 1-3 to 23% by June 2024 (currently 33%; 2022 was 45%; NA is 23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning support. Identify areas for development from previous year group and your current class. IEPs reviewed 	26% - not achieved although improvement of 7% since last year and 19% since two years ago.
Strengths: Overall results increased to 99. Big jump in FS1.		• Statemented children's results included in 2024's results.
Areas for Development Pupils scoring in lower PTM stanine bands (33%) above National Average (23%)		

Covid's impact upon pupil learning lingers like a shadow; making its presence felt still. While poor attendance continues to be a significant barrier to learning, progress and attainment for a small minority of children in our school. This is especially true for any children receiving additional support



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 2025, our P7 pupils will commence learning in the following primary schools:

Aquinas Grammar

Ashfield Boys'

Ashfield Girls'

Breda Academy

Dundonald High

Killard House

Lagan College

Grosvenor Grammar

Malone Integrated

Priory College

Strathearn

Wellington College



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

In 2023-24 there were, on average 139 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage at 91.5%

CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL – GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 1st April 2023 £10,316.87

Income

School Fund	£1,620
Gregg's Breakfast Fund	£1,500
Cookstown Recycling Textiles	£ 411
Signature Works Donation	£ 350
NIWM Travel Grant (school Trip)	£ 120
NDCS Grant	£1,000

Charity Support

Children in Need	£ 200
Save the Children	£ 250
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 200
TeamDot Christmas Appeal	£ 100

Closing Balance 31st March 2024 £8,860.41

CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL - DELEGATED BUDGET 2023-24

SCHOOL FINANCIAL PLAN 2023 - 2026



School: Cregagh Primary

Cost Centre: 20433

EA Locality: East

Only complete cells in yellow

A Pupils and Teachers		YEAR 1 (2023-2024)	YEAR 2 (2024-2025)	YEAR 3 (2025-2026)
	October 2022	October 2023	October 2024	October 2025
1 Full Time Equivalent Enrolment (excluding Spec Unit pupils)	146	143	135	126
2 Planned Teaching Complement (after amendment to Variables as below)	8.60	8.60	8.60	8.60
3 Planned Pupil/Teacher Ratio (September)	16.98	16.63	15.70	14.65
B Changes in Teaching Staff		YEAR 1 Change In Staff	Year 2 Change In Staff	Year 3 Change In Staff
4 Increase in Teachers				
5 Decrease in Teachers (enter as positive figure)				
C Planned Expenditure		YEAR 1 (2023-2024) £ %	YEAR 2* (2024-2025) £ %	YEAR 3* (2025-2026) £ %
Expenditure Summary				
Staff Costs				
6 - Teaching		520,894 76.0%	540,409 76.9%	546,082 76.9%
7 - Non Teaching		101,966 15.0%	101,964 14.5%	101,964 14.4%
8 - Other Costs		926 0.1%	926 0.1%	926 0.1%
9 Premises, Fixed Plant and Grounds		72,112 10.6%	72,833 10.4%	73,562 10.4%
10 Operating Costs		32,612 4.8%	32,938 4.7%	33,268 4.7%
11 Non Capital Purchases		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
12 Capital Expenditure		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
13 Less Income (enter as negative figure)		-49,920 -	-45,920 -	-45,920 -
14 Total Planned Expenditure		678,590	703,151	709,881
Estimated Savings (enter as a negative figure)				
Reduction in Teaching Staff (as per Variables)				
Please specify				
Please specify				
Estimated Additional Expenditure (enter as a positive figure)				
Increase in Teaching Staff (as per Variables)				
Please specify				
Please specify				
21 Total Planned Expenditure after Savings and Additional Expenditure		678,590	703,151	709,881
D Budget				
Common Formula Funding (CFF) (Interim Allocation)		610,007	602,114	581,068
SEND		8,757	8,757	8,757
Other funding - (Please specify)				
Split Site Schools ONLY				
26 Total Budget		618,764	610,871	589,825
E In Year Movement				
In Year Underspend / (Overspend)		-59,827	-92,279	-120,056
Cumulative Surplus / Deficit				
Carry-over from previous year		29,433	-30,394	-122,673
In Year Underspend / (Overspend) of delegated resources		-59,827	-92,279	-120,056
Closing Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit) 31 March		-30,394	-122,673	-242,729
% Carry Over		-4.7%	-21.1%	-62.0%
G CATEGORY		Category 2		

As of November 2024 (the time of the writing of this report), Cregagh Primary School is classed by the EA as being a Financial Category 2 school meaning it is a school, “with an increasing deficit less than 5% (including those schools moving from surplus to deficit)”. This follows an 8-year period of being classed as a Category 5 school.

The continuing underfunding of schools across NI and rising utility costs has led to most NI schools being in deficit; with 80% of school expected to be in deficit by 2028.

The Education Authority currently has a deficit more than £300,000,000 (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63578232>). The principal and the Board of Governors will continue to exercise prudent financial oversight but will govern in the best interests of the children and staff of Cregagh Primary School.

