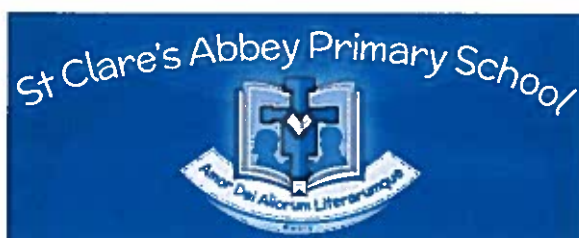


St Clare's Abbey Primary School



Annual Board of Governors' Report 2016/17

Approved by Governors: 07/02/18

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Governors Report	4
Board of Governors	5
Staffing Complement	6
Staff News	10
Enrolment	10
An overview of achievements of 2016/17	10
1. A comprehensive staff and governor professional development programme was implemented	12
2. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their Mathematical and Communication skills	14
3. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their ICT skills	15
4. A programme for helping pupils with Special Educational Needs/Additional educational Needs	16
5. A programme for enhancing the quality of our Nursery provision	17
6. A programme for ensuring that the needs of Newcomer pupils are met	19
7. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their talents in Art, Drama and Music	20
8. A programme for developing World Around Us (WAU)	21
9. A programme for developing PE	22
10. A programme for developing Parental Engagement	24
11. A programme for developing strong community links was Undertaken	26
12. Attendance	27
13. Charity Donations	27

14. Destination of School Leavers	...	...	...	...	...	27
15. School Funds Account	....	...	...	...	...	28
16. LMS Budget Plan	...	...	...	...	...	29
17. Conclusion	...	...	...	...	...	31

<p>St Clare's Abbey Primary School, Newry</p>

Governors' Report 2016/17

Dear Parents

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the 16/17 Governors' Report for St Clare's Abbey Primary School. 2016/17 was the third and final year of the first St Clare's Abbey School Development Plan and the work completed, tied together so many of the extraordinary strands involved in creating our new school. It is fair to say that years 1 -3 were extremely fruitful and a Baseline and Monitoring inspection undertaken by ETI in March 17 (albeit incomplete due to implications of staff involvement in industrial action) confirmed that a great start had been made. June 17 also marked the official opening of our beautiful school with a very special mass and celebration attended by all staff and the many people who had helped bring our school to fruition.

It is our intention that you should be kept informed about the development of the life of our school and this report is one of a number of ways in which the information will be provided.

I thank you for taking the time to read this report and for the interest and support you show to the school community of St Clare's Abbey.

Yours sincerely
Canon Francis Brown

Rev Canon Francis Brown (Adm).
Chairman

St Clare's Abbey Primary School

Board of Governors: 2014 - 2018

Trustees:

Rev Canon Francis Brown (Chairperson)
Mr Gerard Keenan (Vice - Chair)
Sr Julie Mc Goldrick
Mrs Siobhan Gorman

SELB Representatives:

Mr Brendan Keenan
Mrs Karen Mc Nally

Department Representative:

Mrs Ciara Reilly

Parent Representative:

Mr Shane Comer

Teacher Representative:

Miss Patricia Mc Coy

Principal

Mrs Michelle Monaghan (Secretary to the Board of Governors)

What Are Their Main Responsibilities?

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

Some of their Duties Include:

- Overseeing the curriculum.
- The control of the budget.
- The provision of information to parents.
- The selection of staff.
- The maintenance of the premises (shared responsibility with SELB).
- The Admissions Policy.
- Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

Warmest thanks are extended to our governors who give so freely of their valuable time.

STAFFING COMPLEMENT 2016/17

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1. Mrs Michelle Monaghan	Principal
2. Mr Eddie Sweeney	Vice Principal
3. Mrs Toner	Member of School Leadership Team SENCO Primary 2 Teacher -
4.. Mrs Catherine Bennett	Head of Nursery
5. Miss Blanaid O Shea	ECPD teacher (Education Centre for Physically Disabled Children.)
6. Mrs Caitriona Cribbin	Member of School Leadership Team, Head of Foundation Stage, Joint Literacy Co-ordinator & Primary 1 Teacher - Abbey site
7. Miss Eimear Mc Shane	Primary 1 Teacher
8. Mrs Kathy Crozier	Primary 1 Teacher
9. Mrs Emma Mc Keown	Primary 2 Teacher- On Maternity leave- Miss Claire Jones - substitute teacher until February/ Miss Mairead Dyas substitute teacher until June
10. Mrs Jayne Davey	Primary 2 Teacher- working in a job share partnership with temporary teacher - Mrs Niamh Trotter until term 2 when Mrs Davey went on maternity leave. Mrs Trotter assumed the role of full time class teacher for the remainder of the year.
11. Miss Monica Mallon	Primary 2 Teacher
12. Mrs Geraldine Tierney	Primary 3 teacher
13. Miss Roisin Rocks	Joint ICT co-ordinator Primary 3 Teacher
14. Mr Aidan Clarke temporary teacher	Coordinator of The Arts

	Primary 3 Teacher
15. Mrs Helen Mc Goldrick	Primary 4 Teacher Joint Numeracy Coordinator
16. Mr Brendan Byrne	Primary 4 Teacher
17. Mrs Katharine Doherty	Primary 5 teacher- On maternity leave Term 1 - substitute teacher = Mr David Mc Entee. Member of School Leadership Team Coordinator for Newcomer Provision, Religion and Pastoral Care.
18. Mr Mark Digney	Primary 5 Teacher
19. Mrs Clare Donnelly	Member of School Leadership Team Head of Key stage 1 Joint Literacy Co-ordinator Primary 6 Teacher until March 17 when she assumed Vice Principal's post in Glassdrummond PS. Mrs Mc Parland then became P6 class teacher.
20. Miss Patricia Mc Coy	Member of School Leadership Team Head of Key Stage 2 Joint Numeracy Co-ordinator Primary 6 Teacher
21. Mrs Sonya Mc Veigh	Coordinator for World Around Us Primary 7 Teacher
22. Mrs Michelle Mc Parland	Joint ICT co-ordinator Primary 7 Teacher until March when she became P6 teacher. Her P7 substitute teacher was David Mc Entee.

AUXILIARY STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
23. Mrs Anne Hayes	Executive Officer- on sick leave - Mrs Sineen O Hare temporary replacement
24. Mrs Bridie Downey	Executive Officer.

25. Mr Cormac Murphy	Building Supervisor.
26. Mr Edmond Heaney	Building Supervisor.
27. Mrs Louise Morgan	Classroom Assistant.
28. Mrs. Catherine McQuillan	Classroom Assistant.
29. Mrs Amanda Keenan	Classroom Assistant.
30. Mrs Anne Doyle	Classroom Assistant.
31. Mrs Lorraine Mc Cann	Classroom Assistant.
32. Ms Martina Fearon	Classroom Assistant.
33. Mrs Deirdre Murtagh	Classroom Assistant.
34. Miss Therese Kelland	Classroom Assistant.
35. Mrs Patricia Gray	Classroom Assistant.
36. Mrs Nuala Rafferty	Classroom Assistant.
37. Mrs Marie McCartan	Classroom Assistant.
38. Mrs Aneta Palis	Classroom Assistant.
39. Mrs Mella Cunningham	Classroom Assistant.
40. Mrs Fiona Mc Govern	Classroom Assistant.
41. Mrs Maggie Rogalska	Classroom Assistant.
42. Miss Julie Hewitt	Classroom Assistant.
43. Mona Mc Ardle	Classroom Assistant.
44. Mrs Eilis Clarke	Classroom Assistant.
45. Miss Tara Hollywood	Classroom Assistant.
46. Mrs Breege Mc Anulty	Classroom Assistant.
47. Mrs Joanne Fallon	Assistant - ECPD.
48. Mrs Orla Mulholland	Assistant ECPD
49. Mrs Phyllis O Hare	Assistant - ECPD.
50. Mrs Teresa Hollywood	Assistant- ECPD.
51. Mrs Attracta Byrne	Assistant -ECPD temporary
52. Mrs Yvonne Mc Mahon	Assistant - temporary
53. Mrs Colette Lundy	Assistant - temporary
54. Ms Fiona Keeley	Assistant- temporary

CLEANERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
55. Mrs Mc Shane	Cleaning Supervisor -
56. Mrs Doyle	Cleaner
58. Mrs Doherty	Cleaner -
59. Miss Mc Shane	Cleaner
60. Mrs Gallagher	Cleaner-
61. Mrs Clarke	Cleaner -
62. Mrs Rooney	Cleaner-
63. Ms Mc Shane	Temporary Cleaner-

SUPERVISORS - DINING HALL/YARD

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
64. Mrs. E Kay	Senior Supervisory Assistant Dhall/Yard
65. Mrs R Doherty	Dhall/Yard Supervisory Assistant
66. Ms J Grant	Dhall/Yard Supervisory Assistant
67. Miss Woods	Dhall/Yard Supervisory Assistant
68. Mrs Woods	Senior Supervisory Assistant Dhall/Yard
69. Ms Mc Shane	Dhall/Yard Supervisory Assistant

STAFF IN DINING HALL/KITCHEN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Mrs Jacqui Graham & Her team	School cook

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL OFFICER

Mr Andrzej Sobala

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Mrs Caroline Flynn

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Fr Krzysztof
&
Sr Rosemary Lynchehaun

Staff news:

We thank the temporary teachers we had in school during 2016/17 for the effort they invested:

Mrs Niamh Trotter - substitute teacher for Mrs Jayne Davey

Mr David Mc Entee - substitute teacher for Mrs K Doherty and then Mrs Clare Donnelly.

Mr Aidan Clarke- teacher filling 1 year vacant post.

Miss Claire Jones- teacher filling vacant post September - February

Miss Mairead Dyas- teacher filling vacant post March - June.

We congratulate Mrs Jayne Davey and Mrs Louise Morgan and their husbands on the birth of their new babies: Benedict and Conor respectively.

In June 2017 three permanent teachers were appointed to our staff and one temporary teacher. Each will commence his/her new post in Sept 17. We congratulate:

Mrs Ciara Kearney, Miss Aoife O Hanlon & Mr Aidan Clarke (permanent posts) and Miss Mairead Dyas (1 year post.)

Enrolment:

Our enrolment as recorded on DENI statistical return in October 16 was 500 including 53 pupils in Nursery and we thank our deeply committed staff for the tireless work they have undertaken throughout the year. Their dedication to our pupils is unwavering.

An overview of achievements of 2016/17:

The school year 2016/17, the third year of St Clare's Abbey's existence, has been a very successful one in which many noteworthy achievements were made in all aspects of school work and life.

ETI undertook a baseline monitoring inspection in March 17. This type of inspection looks at newly created schools to ascertain how effective they are. Some of the findings were:

'The new school ethos and identity and the commitment to the care and welfare of the school community have been created and implemented successfully as evident in the pride and commitment expressed by the governors, parents, children and teaching support staff.'

'In the meetings with . . . children they articulated clearly their understanding of the use of a range of digital tools across the curriculum.'

'The children reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being'

'The children take on significant leadership roles which impact positively on their confidence and self esteem.

An innovative children's 'Digital Leaders' team has been established to support and promote the use of ICT across all year groups and has been recognised by external accreditation.'

'The initial school development plan has been informed by robust self- evaluation and extensive involvement of all stakeholders.'

The inspection is incomplete as teachers were unable to participate since they were following industrial action re 'Action Short of Strike' campaign. Nonetheless the feedback that was given shows that the successful start made in St Clare's Abbey was recognised by ETI.

Key 16/17 achievements are listed below but once again are only a snapshot of the tremendous work done.

1. A comprehensive staff and governor professional development programme was implemented:

A comprehensive staff development programme was undertaken incorporating external and in-house training. It correlated with areas identified in the School Development Plan and it contributed significantly to achievements in each of those areas, as outlined in later sections of this report.

ICT:

- The company ITeach trained staff- teachers and a selection of classroom assistants in use of: Green screen & I Movie, Book creator, Puppet Pals, Explain Everything and Seesaw apps. The coordinators and digital leaders received training in a host of coding apps and devices. These were used with pupils across the curriculum and in an afterschool club.
- Coordinators and principal attended I Learn and C2K E Learning conferences.

World Around Us:

- The coordinator led an in-house comprehensive staff development programme aimed at ensuring all strands and contributing subjects were being developed in depth in each primary.
- Externally led STEM and other WAU workshops (3) attended by coordinator and 2 teachers who will help form a WAU team next year.

Special Educational Needs:

An array of teachers and classroom assistants attended training in

- Motor Sensory difficulties - The Motor Sensory Group and 'On the Write Track' programme (HSS Occupational therapists & ACE Team OT. - 6 assistants and 2 teachers trained.)
- Autism (Autism Advisory Service- 4 teachers and 2 assistants)
- Language and Communication (School employed speech therapist & Communication Tree programme by EA Speech and Language Advisory Team)
- Social Emotional and Behavioural difficulties -SEBD -(ACE team & EA Behaviour Support Team & EA Pupil Personal Development Team)
- Safe Handling techniques- (EA personnel-2 assistants)
- Working with Hearing Impaired pupils- EA advisor 3 members of staff)

Literacy:

An array of classroom assistants and two teachers availed of training delivered by a Literacy advisor funded by Neighbourhood Renewal partnership):

- 'Talking Partners' (3 assistants and 1 teacher)
- 'Supporting children with delayed reading skills.'- (8 assistants and 1 teacher)

Additionally

The coordinators led:

- In-house comprehensive staff development programme aimed at extending our more able pupils.

- Staff training in the use of our new E reader schemes- Bug Club and Rapid Readers- all teachers
- Alpha to Omega sessions in the use of this programme to help pupils struggling with Literacy - Class room assistants.

Numeracy:

Training delivered by a Numeracy advisor funded by Neighbourhood Renewal partnership):

- 'Numeracy Catch Up' 1 assistant and 1 teacher trained.
- Maths Mentor programme - 1 teacher trained.

Additionally

- The coordinators led an in-house comprehensive staff development programme aimed at extending our more-able pupils.

Pastoral Care/ Safeguarding:

- Rights Respecting School Award- VP and 1 member of SLT attended.
- Safeguarding training for Chair of BOG.
- We hosted the 'Roots of Empathy' programme for the first time. A very special experience for the P3 class who had baby Emma and her mummy join them and the HSS facilitator each month to help them grow emotionally by tapping into a growing relationship with her and trying to view a host of experiences by how they would impact on her. It was wonderful and very beneficial for the specially selected class.

Continuing Professional Development:

- RTU - 'Steps into Leadership' - 1 teacher.
- EPD & Induction courses- 4 teachers.
- ETI - Associate Assessor training- Principal
- CCMS/DENI/ ETI & Catholic Principal Association -CPA Leadership conferences (4 in total) Principal.
- Trusted Colleague programme- all staff were involved in this and used it as a way to share good practice.

Governors' training:

- Safeguarding - Chair attended.
- School Improvement- Strengthening the Governors' Role.
- Managing Attendance.

2. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their Mathematical and Communication skills was led by Numeracy coordinators- Miss Mc Coy & Mrs Mc Goldrick and Literacy co-ordinators - Mrs Cribbin and Mrs Donnelly

This was the third year in which we worked to ensure that our teaching (As per objectives set out in 2014-17 SDP) in these core subjects was:

- active,
- engaging and
- aimed at helping each child achieve levels in Literacy and Numeracy in keeping with his/her academic potential.

Given that it is difficult to determine what constitutes an 'average school', we use the notion that 60% of pupils should be attaining at stanine 5 and above in GL standardised tests, within an 'average school' to help establish how St Clare's Abbey is performing:

	Stanine 5 or above June 17 (Literacy)	Stanine 5 or above June 17 (Numeracy)
Primary 7	(71%)	(71%)

As a school, we are fully aware that many pupils in the above cohort have had difficulties that required a lot of help to overcome. As such we are particularly proud that by the end of their 7 years with us they have achieved so much and that we are attaining a higher % than average at stanine 5 and above.

It is also important to note the following as evidence of how our work to help each child achieve in line with his potential is impacting significantly:

	Under achieving in relation to cognitive ability June 17 - Literacy	Under achieving in relation to cognitive ability June 17 - Numeracy
Primary 7	0 pupils	1 pupil (3% of whole year group)

As mentioned above, we know that lots of our pupils have barriers to learning but this data confirms our conviction that we systematically overcome these, year on year. We are confident that by the time our pupils leave us we have virtually removed all underachievement and have a very respectable set of assessment outcomes when compared with national averages.

3. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their ICT skills was led by ICT coordinators - Miss Rocks and Mrs McParland - There were two main objectives.

a). Enhancing teaching with technology.

We were awarded 'Digital School of Distinction' status in the Intel/Microsoft/HP Digital Schools Awards NI in recognition of our 'excellence in integrating digital technology into learning and teaching. Some observations by the assessor included:

It was evident that strong progression from one year to the next was being developed both at planning and classroom levels. The school has established a strong basis for a progressive set of ICT experiences that allow teachers and pupils to respond to emerging technologies and software applications.

And

The culture of ICT in the school is clearly strong.... continues to be strategically and purposefully cultivated by the principal and coordinators. Together, they have developed ICT over recent years to make it a key feature of teaching and learning.

In the 2017 Baseline assessment ETI reported:

In the meetings with . . . children they articulated clearly their understanding of the use of a range of digital tools across the curriculum.

We were also asked by Digital School of Distinction body to become one of their mentor schools for other schools embarking on this journey. We agreed.

b). Developing Pupils' E Safety skills.

A huge amount of work was done in this area, which involved our digital leaders:

Working with Wayne Denner, a renowned E Safety consultant to present a very well attended and successful parents' information evening.

Creating and patenting an E safety mascot 'Techno' and leading, with the two ICT co-ordinators, a year long pupil educational programme.

4. A programme for helping pupils with Special Educational Needs/Additional educational Needs was led by SENCO- Mrs Toner. (There were 3 main areas)

a) Involving parents:

We did a lot of work to help our parents:

- 1) Understand how SEN provision 'works' within our school and the wider EA context.
- 2) Have tangible means of supporting their child.
 - The work on No 1 will continue in 2017/18, as it is an overwhelmingly complex process.
 - Regarding No 2 - 100% of parents of pupils on the SEN register who replied to an end of year questionnaire agreed that they had been provided with guidance as to how they could help their child at home.

'Everything has been explained brilliantly' Parent of P 4 child with Moderate Learning Difficulty

'We find the meetings very useful' Parent of P6 child with Language & Communication Difficulties *'As the parent teacher meeting is early in the school year I think it is brilliant that we have additional meetings so I can keep on track with what 'S' needs'* Parent of P 4 child with SpLD.

Whilst pleased with how we have put structures in place to facilitate this parental empowerment, SLT recognises that this is only the start of our work in this area, it undoubtedly needs to be developed further in our next development cycle.

b) Enhancing pupil voice in SEN matters:

A pupil friendly format (age appropriate versions) IEP has been used for informing children of their targets and for engaging them when monitoring progress. Some comments from staff audit regarding this:

'Child friendly IEPs are very useful for child. Good motivation and visual aid to help child see progression' Primary 4 teacher

'It worked for mine. They took responsibility for themselves and they knew to check... they were motivated by it. It was the best thing for 'M' he achieved his targets earlier than expected. It didn't work as well for 'D', he has Moderate Learning Difficulty.' Primary 7 teacher.

c) Tracking the attainment gains of pupils with SEN/AEN.

Often, GL assessments are not appropriate for many of our pupils with SEN so individualised trackers are used to microscopically ascertain where each child is in his/her learning to establish what progress has been made and to set meaningful targets for the next stage:

This system is working extremely well for us and is providing us with a rich source of relevant and informative data which we can use to plan future learning for these pupils. We will continue to fine tune it as currently we feel that the maths component could become more informative. Comprehensive data re this is held in school.

5. A programme for enhancing the quality of our Nursery provision was developed by Head of Nursery in conjunction with principal and Foundation Stage co-ordinator

There were 5 main priorities:

- a) Improve the quality of transition from Nursery to Primary 1:
 ICT was used to great advantage in securing this as recognised by the Digital School of Excellence assessor: *There is strong vide-oconference usage across the school. These include links with local schools and the school's own Nursery Unit - a particularly innovative and beneficial project. This aspect of use of ICT is impressive and provides a strong focus on how ICT can support collaboration beyond the classroom. The work provides an excellent foundation for wider dissemination of the links to other schools.*
- b) Forge closer Cross Community links with other pre-school providers:
 - We liaised closely with our Cross Community Partner School- Ashgrove Nursery and enjoyed shared programmes from: 'Lights, Action, Camera Group' & The Gathering Drum / Joe Loughlin.
 - The Head of Nursery joined with other Nursery schools in our locality to create their own vehicle for disseminating good practice.
- c) Develop pupils' oral language:
 A speech therapist, Rosaleen Mc Veigh was employed by the school (Funded by Extended Schools and Neighbourhood Renewal funding)
 The 'Wellcomm' screening programme was used as a diagnostic tool to identify children whose language was not age appropriate. Children who obtained Red and Amber scores received support and their parents were shown how to support their child. The final Wellcomm screening showed that 14 out of 15 children whose language had not been age appropriate, obtained a green age appropriate score by the end of the year.
- d) Strengthen Parental links:
 1. 36 out of 52 families were represented at the Nursery, "Starting with a love of books at bedtime" initiative.
 2. Although a small number of Parents attended the DELTA programme this year, (10% attendance) those who participated found the sessions informative and interesting. The sessions offered were:
 - Early Literacy and Early Mathematics
 - Healthy Lifestyle
 - Positive Parenting
 Following this a consultation with parents has provided us with good ideas for enhancing parental participation next year.

3. Induction workshops for new intake were revised for the 2016/17 cohort following staff reflection on the 15/16 experience. These were implemented in June 2016-

- Small groups of parents were introduced to the Nursery.
- The parents visited the indoor play areas and the outdoor play areas.
- Parents were made aware of the integral role they play in the settling in process and given some ideas on how to encourage their child to look forward to beginning Nursery.
- Parents were encouraged to take photographs of the Nursery and indeed to photograph each other busy at Nursery activities.
- Parents were given opportunities to discuss the potential learning from activities that were set out in the room.
- Parents were made aware of the Pre School Curriculum and given a welcome pack.

These sessions were very successful with every parent commenting positively about the relaxed and informal manner in which the information was imparted to them.

In June there was 98% Parental attendance at the Nursery graduation.

At the end of term the Nursery Team issued a Parental Questionnaire auditing 'The Nursery Experience' including- helpfulness of staff, explanation of the curriculum and tips on how to help young children. The feedback was excellent from a majority of the parents who responded.

Some Parents' comments received were:

"Very informative - feeling less anxious"

"Many thanks for a very informative information session. The Nursery is very welcoming and lovely that all the Nursery staff had the opportunity to speak"

"I found the session very informative - good that it's in a smaller group to be shown everything."

"This meeting is just great, it's so good to know what our child's day in Nursery will consist of. A beautiful room full of great activities. I'm excited myself and I'm sure my daughter will be too."

- e) Creating a new Nursery environment - indoors and outdoors
- Play areas have been set up indoors - Building area, Role Play area, Sand and Water Play, Reading / Writing area, Table Top Play area
 - Play areas have been set up outdoors on soft play surface - outdoor area has been well developed, grass sown, additional boundary gates have been installed.
 - An external sand pit, mud kitchen, environmental area and growing area have been developed.

6. A programme for ensuring that the needs of Newcomer pupils are met, was led by co-ordinator, Mrs Doherty.

There has been a lot of work this year on the tracking of progress of Newcomer children using performance target grids. Teachers are becoming more familiar with these trackers and are able to make achievable targets for their Newcomer children and have a better idea of their achievements. This has translated into enhanced attainment for the majority of our pupils with English as an additional language.

In an open meeting with Newcomer parents held in March 17, 100% attendees (albeit that the meeting was attended by fewer families than we would have hoped for) expressed their satisfaction with how staff are meeting the needs of children and felt that they could come to us if there was anything they needed. We used this gathering to ask parents for assistance with creating a new feature on the school website showcasing the differences between life here in Ireland and life in their home country. Whilst embryonic, a great start has been made to this.

7. A programme for ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their talents in Art, Drama and Music was led by Arts coordinator - Miss Duffy

In addition to accessing these areas via the curriculum our pupils have had the following experiences:

In second/third terms St. Clare's Abbey took part in Newry Feis:

P4 recorder came 1st

P7 recorder and P5 recorder came 4th

Recorder Ensemble came 1st.

The Strings Ensemble came 4th

P2 Creative Music came 1st

The Fireside singers came 2nd

The choir came 2nd in both competitions.

P7 Drama Group came 1st in the short play competition.

Solo performers participated in singing and verse speaking competitions and we were so proud of all our pupils for participating to such a high standard, we have lost count of the number of medals and certificates won, but truly we believe that everyone who performed was a winner!

In term 3 we enjoyed 'St Clare's Abbey Has Talent'. This was completely organised by the P7 Playground Pals and took place over several weeks until the winners of each heat came together to showcase their vast array of talents from dance, song, acrobatics to drama. The final took place on a beautiful sunny morning in the playground by the outdoor stage and was a great celebration of our performers and the maturity and organisational skills of our senior pupils.

The highlight of the year for our choir was the memorable participation in The Peace Proms held in The Odyssey. Recordings from it are on the school website and are well worth a viewing.

Competition success:

We entered many community art competitions throughout the year and many pupils won prizes:

We believe that all these opportunities are crucial if our pupils are to develop to their full potential.

8. A programme for developing World Around Us (WAU) was led by co-ordinator Mrs Mc Veigh

In addition to developing staff in their efforts to ensure that there is a really good balance of Science, History and Geography in the pupils' WAU experiences, great progress was made in ensuring that pupils' Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills were integrated into WAU work. This resulted in the pupils making lots of connections in their learning and practising all their communication, mathematical and ICT skills throughout the day and not just in the Literacy and Numeracy lessons. We did great work on this. WAU is supplemented by the work we undertake in the:

- Eco Schools scheme- we were awarded our second green flag after an intensive one day visit where the assessor interviewed the Eco Council comprising of pupils from P2 - P7. They impressed him greatly and are very proud of how well they worked through the areas on their action plan.
- 'Sustrans' scheme - we worked so, so hard to develop a culture of sustainable travel. Again a committee of pupils led a series of initiatives including 'Ditch The Dark' and the 'Active Travel Super Hero' challenge. We made great links with the patron of the scheme and he trained our P7 pupils in the cycle proficiency scheme. Above and beyond we were awarded the bronze level of Sustrans - the first step towards gold, which we know will take several more years to achieve.
- 'Fair Trade' accreditation scheme, which we were awarded in 16/17 in recognition of the work we have done to educate the pupils in this area. The highlight of course was the whole school partaking in the Fair trade morning where they enjoyed a selection of 'Fair trade' edible treats.

9. A programme for developing PE was undertaken by Mr Digney with the assistance of Miss Kelland, Mr Byrne & Mr McEntee

During the academic year 2016-2017, all pupils were provided with access to the PE curriculum and received coaching from external bodies to supplement the PE lessons that their class teachers were delivering. KS1 received fundamental movement coaching from the Ulster Council, KS2 received Gaelic football coaching from the Down County Board and P5 - P7 took part in swimming lessons for a term each. All teachers expressed satisfaction with the quality of coaching that their class received and hope that budget cuts would not lead to the cutting of these coaching sessions for the school.

With regards to extra-curricular sport, this year we aimed to increase the number of pupils in KS2 participating in Gaelic games and also increase the amount of competitions that we entered. We have achieved both of these goals. We have entered teams in quiz competitions, boys' Gaelic football, girls' Gaelic football, Camogie and Hurling. We were competitive in all of these disciplines, reaching the latter stages and finals of many. Our playing numbers have risen though it is concerning that many of our pupils do not play for teams outside of school, a fact that will prevent us from being competitive in future years. To address this, a link with Newry Shamrocks GAC has been created and will involve coaching being provided for KS1 and KS2 pupils from September. We hope that this will ignite the passion for Gaelic games for many of our pupils, with mutual benefits for both St Clare's Abbey and Newry Shamrocks.

A further PE development in 2016-2017, provided pupils from P4 and P5 with the opportunity to participate in gymnastics after school. It was aimed at children who didn't enjoy the competitive nature of traditional sports such as Gaelic football, hurling and camogie to ensure that as many children in St Clare's Abbey were physically active and realised the importance of sport in their life and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

10. **A programme for developing Parental Engagement was undertaken by Parental Co-ordinator, Miss O'Shea in conjunction with the Principal and Vice Principal**

- Once again we hosted the 10 week long FAST (Family and School Together) programme. The families involved, gained so much from it- children and parents alike- and especially enjoyed their weekly meal together, the gift basket raffle and the end of programme graduation and grand Christmas party, hosted in the hall by Santa and Mrs Claus. 16 families were recruited. All graduated, representing 100% retention- the national average is 90%.

Evaluations were completed in weeks 3 & 8 by co-ordinator and Emmett Norris- Save The Children, and team and programme were deemed outstanding.

- When The FAST programme concluded, 12 of the participating families showed an interest in continuing the programme in the next phase. This was called 'FASTWORKS' and a room was made available once a month in school as they established a follow on programme, totally parent driven and funded by 'Save The Children.' The group organised a host of wonderful family events- these can be viewed on the school website.
- Parental Coffee mornings were hosted at key points throughout the year.

Additional statistics regarding parental engagement:

- Only six parents, across the school failed to attend Parent /Teacher meetings and these were all followed up and offered another appointment.
- 36 out of 52 families were represented at the Nursery, "Starting with a love of books at bedtime" initiative.
- 14 targeted families participated in the "Reading Partners" programme.
- The P2 teachers held a Linguistic Phonics workshop which had 26 parents in attendance.
- Start of year parent information meetings were held in September for P2-7. Attendance across the meetings was 28% which represented a decline in attendance from the same time the previous year. The format for Sept 2017 meetings was reconsidered in light of this.
- In February P5 pupils held an assembly dedicated to Grandparents- only 10 children were not represented in the whole year group as their grandparents are living outside the country.
- In April the Numeracy co-ordinators organised a workshop on how to help younger children with Numeracy at home led by Mr Timothy Doyle for parents of P1 & P2 pupils. The workshop was held in the evening- as parents had requested in previous year survey, - 33 parents attended and gave very positive feedback.
- In June there was 98% Parental attendance at the Nursery and P.7 Leavers' ceremonies.
- At the end of term, the Nursery Team issued a Parental Questionnaire auditing The Nursery Experience including- helpfulness of staff, explanation of the curriculum and tips on how to help young children. The feedback was excellent from a majority of the parents who responded.

- Attendance at the meetings in preparation of the Sacraments in P4 & P7 was excellent-80% and a majority of parents and pupils attended school after the sacraments where staff laid on hospitality for all.

ETI in its March 2017 Baseline assessment noted *'the pride and commitment expressed by the parents.....'*

11. A programme for developing strong community links was undertaken. We engaged in a host of events and activities to promote community relationships and strong partnerships with our educational partners at primary, post primary and third level stages

- We hosted I Teach conference for schools in our locality.
- We hosted an E Safety conference led by E Safety consultant - Wayne Denner and community partners attended.
- Visits to Tesco re 'Food to Fork' programme.
- Fire Service - talks to P5
- Peace Proms held in Odyssey- involving 20* other schools and professional orchestra.
- PSNI - selection of safety talks given to different year groups. PSNI also worked with us to improve traffic management.
- Sentinus team- Young Innovators project & Knex Challenge -STEM related.
- Credit Union & GAA quizzes.
- GAA/ St Clare's Inter schools competition and Newry Mourne and Down sporting events.
- Parish & Diocesan links- Pre Sacramental parent sessions, Retreat for P7s, Children Of The Eucharist Programme- (Monthly adoration of The Blessed Sacrament for P4 class)
- Links with Post primaries in a variety of ways including 'Taster sessions' where P6 & P7s sample a day in post primary. Innovatively this year we had the Maths & Literacy Mentors programmes- wherein a selection of their A Level students come to support some of our pupils in their learning.

This wide range of community partner links was evident in the extensive and varied array of guests that attended our official opening in June 2017. A celebratory Mass was held in a marquee erected on the school premises, celebrated by Most Rev Bishop McAreavey and concelebrated by Canon Francis Brown - Chair of Board of Governors and Fr Krzystof - School chaplain. Deacon John McClelland was also in attendance. Bishop McAreavey blessed each classroom and the celebrations concluded with refreshments and speeches in the school assembly hall. Representatives from local primary, post primary and pre-schools were in attendance accompanied by representatives from CCMS, Education Authority (EA), DENI, Building and Design team, Courtenay Hill neighbourhood, Edmund Rice Schools Trust, St Clare's Convent, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Local business community, Newry and Mourne Extended Schools and Neighbourhood Renewal bodies.

Other important information from 16/17 school year:

Attendance: 93.8%

Parental Engagement coordinator monitored attendance monthly with E.W.O.

The parents of pupils with an attendance of 90% received a letter of concern - 21 (excluding those pupils whose absence was not typical and fully documented eg surgery etc)

Those with attendances falling below 85%, without a very valid reason, were referred to the E.W.O - 10

It was noted that a lot of children were absent in September due to late family holidays and a letter was drawn up to alert parents to the fact that these were unauthorised absences and had a negative impact on a child's education

Charity Donations

Name of Charity	Amount
Newry Hospice - Dress Down Day	£677.65
Newry Hospice - Coffee Morning	£431.38
Baby Noah - Sands NI	£500.00
Southern Area Hospice - Christmas Cards	£31.60
Newry Lions Club - Sponsored Swim	£586.94
Action MS - Sponsored Walk	£4,989.70
Special Olympics	£400.00
Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust	£400.00
Simon Community	£400.00
Trocraire	£700.00
NI Myeloma and Lymphoma	£400.00
School Funds - Defibrillator Purchases	£3,234.12
TOTAL CHARITY DONATIONS 2016 - 2017	£12,073.74

Sincerest thanks to parents for their generous contributions to each of the above funds and to the school council for firstly selecting the chosen charities for the year and secondly for co-ordinating the fundraising events each month. 3 St Clare's Abbey pupils were invited to a celebration lunch hosted by Action MS. At this St Clare's Abbey was awarded a plaque and shield in recognition of being the top fundraiser for the charity that year in the Southern Schools region.

Destination of school leavers

School	Number of pupils
St Joseph's High School	19
St Colman's College	4
Abbey Grammar School	7
St Mary's High School	10

Sacred Heart Grammar School	2
Our Lady's Grammar School	2
Newry High School	3

NB 26 Pupils sat the GL assessment. Of these 15 (58%) went to grammar schools.

School funds accounts:



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2016 - 2017

[illegible]

LMS Budget plan:

The school budget was fully approved and therefore fully delegated. However, the Governors are keenly aware that there are challenging times ahead financially. A surplus exists currently and it is hoped that this will ease the impact of budget cuts that may emerge.

Only complete cells in grey

	October 2016	October 2017	October 2018	October 2019
Equivalent Enrolment (excluding Spec Unit pupils)	467.5	479	490	491
Teaching Complement	21.20	21.40	21.40	21.40
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	22.05	22.38	22.90	22.94
	YEAR 1 (2017-2018)	YEAR 2 (2018-2019)	YEAR 3 (2019-2020)	
Expenditure Summary				
Staff - Pay Teaching	£1,085,450	£1,151,069	£1,182,045	
Staff - Pay Non Teaching	£271,418	£273,091	£276,846	
Staff - Other Costs	£0	£0	£0	
Premises, Fixed Plant and Grounds	£34,450	£35,139	£35,842	
Operating Costs	£97,718	£99,672	£101,666	
Non Capital Purchases	£8,000	£8,160	£8,323	
Capital Expenditure	£11,000	£0	£0	
Less Income (enter as negative figure)	£0	£0	£0	
Estimated Savings (enter as a negative figure)				
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Estimated Additional expenditure (enter as a positive figure)				
Potential upgrade of Exec Off to Senior Exec Officer	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
Please specify	£0	£0	£0	
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURE	£1,513,036	£1,572,131	£1,609,723	
CFF BUDGET SHARE PER CAPITA	£3,145	£3,128	£3,109	
Budget Summary				
Common Formula Funding (CFF) Budget Sh	£1,470,066	£1,498,481	£1,523,229	
Transition Funding	£0	£0	£0	
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0	
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0	
Other funding - (Please specify)	£0	£0	£0	
Total Delegated Budget	£1,470,066	£1,498,481	£1,523,229	

14	Carry-over from Previous Year	£252,939	£209,969	£136,319
	Total BUDGET	£1,723,005	£1,708,450	£1,659,548
	less PROPOSED EXPENDITURE	£1,513,036	£1,572,131	£1,609,723
	ANTICIPATED CARRY-OVER	£209,969	£136,319	£49,826
	% CARRY-OVER	12.19%	7.98%	3.00%
In Year Movement (for officer use only)		-£42,970	-£73,650	-£86,494
<p>The financial plan will not be considered for approval if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if it is not signed by the Principal and Chairperson, - any of the three years are incomplete, - estimates of expenditure are unrealistic 				
<p>Comment:</p> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>				
Principal: _____		Date: _____		
Chairperson: _____		Date: _____		
Education Authority: _____		Date: _____		

PLANNING	Year 2	Year 3
Cost of Living	1%	1%
Other Costs	2%	2%

CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to peruse this report. The Board of Governors trusts that it gives a good insight into the achievements of 2016/17 and how the efforts of the whole school community during the first 3-year school development period (2014-17) of St Clare's Abbey, have come to fruition. Throughout it, the Governors have recognised the huge contribution made by staff, parents, pupils and indeed the whole governance team. St Clare's Abbey is now three years old and a huge amount has been achieved because of the combined input of the whole team.

If you seek clarification on any of its contents, please feel free to contact:

- School Principal - Mrs Michelle Monaghan

Or

Chairman of St Clare's Abbey Board of Governors - Rev. Canon Francis Brown (Adm.)