

**GLENDERMOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY
UNIT**



ANNUAL REPORT

to Parents
by the Board of Governors

2024-25



Board of Governors Annual General Report

Boards of Governors are required by law to publish an Annual Report for parents.

Please note that this Report is in respect of the school year 2024-25 (last year).

A copy of this report has been placed on the school website:
www.glendermott.net

If you do not have access to the Internet additional copies of the report can be collected from the school office.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this report please contact me directly.

Mr C Duddy

Organisation and Management

The Board of Governors:

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of three times each year.

The Board of Governors is involved in all aspects of school life. The following is a brief summary of the duties of the Governors:

- Governors are responsible for the effective management of the school and use of the funds allocated to it by the Education Authority
- They are also responsible for ensuring that the teachers in the school have the facilities necessary to provide a curriculum which meets the requirements of the Order and for producing a policy in relation to the curriculum
- Governors are required to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place for the admission of pupils to the school and for drawing up criteria which will be used to select pupils should it happen that the number of pupils seeking to be enrolled exceeds the number of places available
- The complement of staff in the school, both teaching and non-teaching, is controlled by the Governors and arrangements for dealing with issues involving industrial relations within the school also fall within their remit
- Fostering partnership and involvement of parents in the affairs of the school

The Board of Governors met on 4 occasions last year to discuss issues related to school and respond to matters raised by the Principal. They both supported and challenged the Principal in relation to the smooth day to day running of Glendermott.

A wide variety of issues are discussed at these meetings.

The range of expertise amongst the Governors enables them to ensure that pupils are experiencing high quality education within a safeguarded environment and that the school's finances are being well utilised.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustee Representatives

Rev Dr J McGrory
Mrs M Donnelly (Vice chair)
Mrs S Meenan
Mr M Robinson

EA Representatives

Mrs M Boyle (Chair)
Mrs C Duddy

DENI Representative

Mrs T Ward

Parent Representative

Mr K O'Connor

Teacher Representative

Mrs C Convery

Principal

Mr C Duddy

The Board of Governors was appointed during the 2024-25 school year.

Premises

Glendermott is located approximately 2 miles from the city of Derry serving the parish of Ardmore. The school is situated in a rural location which benefits from substantial grounds including all weather playgrounds, a courtyard garden, grassed playing area, designated Nursery Outdoor areas and small woodland. The school also benefits from access to the grounds of The Beech Hill Hotel and Ardmore Cricket Field which are adjacent to the school grounds.

In 1912 a school building was built on the site that the school occupies today. The school was named 'Glendermott' because at the time the area was part of the Parish of Glendermott.

In 1974, Ardmore became a parish in its own right taking the school out of the parish it was named after. It was decided that despite this the school name would not be changed. The school currently has 199 pupils from ages 3-11 with a catchment area stretching as far away as Claudy.

An extensive programme of modernisation has been carried out at the school over the years.

An infant block, junior block and an extended assembly hall have been added. The Nursery Unit was opened in 1998 and the school accommodation also comprises a library, ICT room, 2 learning support rooms and a designated play area for the Foundation Stage. In September 2016 the school successfully secured a full cooking kitchen when work was carried out to refurbish the previous servery kitchen. The school now operates a thriving school kitchen which provides breakfast, snack and dinner options for the children, all freshly cooked on site.

Our school benefits from close links with the parish as we have the unique position of being the only school located within the parish boundaries. Rev Dr J McGrory is a frequent visitor to the school and alongside the Board of Governors is very supportive of the school and its work.

Statement of School Aims

Believe, Achieve, Together

In Glendermott our mission is to work together to provide the highest quality learning and teaching in a happy, safe and secure environment in which the children are central to all of our work.

Our school motto is reflective of this ethos, as staff and governors came together to create the essence of what it is we aim to achieve in Glendermott.

Believe

Central to the development of every member of the school community is the belief that they are a valued, unique individual with the ability to be the very best version of themselves in order to achieve their full potential. In Glendermott we see the development of pupil confidence and self-belief as central to all areas of achievement and that through this belief in themselves, every child, and adult has the potential to achieve to their fullest.

We believe in ourselves and in each other. We strive to develop strong, trusting relationships, supporting our pupils and each other in all our endeavours. This belief in the uniqueness of each individual is underpinned by our Catholic faith.

Achieve

All achievements are valued and acknowledged and children are encouraged to discuss their own achievements and those of their peers. As a school we believe that everyone can succeed at something and we value the differences in our talents and contributions. We celebrate and reward the work of the children not just by outcome but by effort and dedication to the tasks. Children are encouraged to succeed at their level and to acknowledge that achievement comes in many forms.

We see co-operation between pupils and staff as central to learning and we believe that every child has the potential to achieve.

Together

In Glendermott we believe that our goals are best achieved by working together as a school with parents, the parish and the community.

As parents are the primary educator for their children we seek to forge open relationships with parents to encourage strong links with the school to benefit the work of the children.

We believe that every child in Glendermott is an important person, created by God and entrusted to us by their parents and we endeavour by word and action to help our children experience the Christian way of life.

Staff in Our School (2024-25)

Teaching Staff

Principal	Mr C Duddy
Vice - Principal	Mr G O'Kane

Nursery	Mrs Selena Page (3 days) Miss Emma Magee (2 days)
P1	Mrs Colleen Convery
P2	Mrs C O'Doherty
P3	Mrs Charlene Easom
P4	Mr Chris Flanagan (Career break covered by Mrs McGuigan)
P5	Mrs Julie Kelly (Secondment covered by Miss Rachel Devine)
P6	Mr Gabriel O'Kane
P7	Mr Conor Duddy (Monday & Tuesday) Ms Lena Strathern (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Non-Teaching Staff

Clerical Officer	Mrs Ita Gamble
Building Supervisor	Mr Matthew Hill
Cleaners	Miss Leanne McGinley
	Ms Lauren Gallagher
General Classroom Assistants	Mrs Gillian McColgan
	Miss Gemma Duddy
SEN Classroom Assistants	Mrs Linda McLaughlin
Mrs Joanne O'Hagan	Mrs Nikita McKinney O'Doherty
Mrs Sarah Moore	Miss Una Kelly

Miss Oonagh Storey	Mrs Emma Bryson
Mrs Tara Brolly	Miss Sophie Heather
Miss Chloe McGowan	
Nursery Assistant	Mrs S Parke
Supervisory Assistants	Mrs Philomena McKinney
	Mrs Yvonne Kelly
	Miss Gemma Duddy
Cook in Charge	Mrs Emma Gormley
Kitchen Staff	Mrs Margaret Olphert
	Miss Leanne McGinley
	Mrs Cathy ?
Crossing Patrol	Mrs B Molloy

Staff Development

Staff	Date	Course
Mr C Duddy	26/9/24	NI Curriculum Refresher
Mrs C O'Doherty	3/10/24	Forest Schools Training
Mr C Duddy	10/10/24	Planning for Improvement
Mrs C Convery	15/10/24	'Bring Your Grown Up'
Ms L Strathern	16/10/24	RAPID Transitions
Miss E Magee	23/10/24	Beginning Teacher
Ms L Strathern	13/11/24	Primary Religion In Service Training
Mrs C Easom	21/11/24	Dyslexia Workshop
Mrs O'Doherty, Miss Magee, Mrs Page, Mrs Convery	7/1/25	Maximising Learning Through Play
Miss E Magee	31/1/25	Beginning Teacher
Mrs C Easom	6/2/25	SEN training

Mrs I Gamble	17-19/2/25	First Aid at Work
Mrs C Convery	20/2/25	NAHT Early Years Conference
Mrs C Convery	3-4/3/25	
Mrs C Convery Mrs C O'Doherty	6/3/25	Maximising Play Through ICT in Foundation Stage
Mr C Duddy	6/3/25	CSTS Governors Information Session
Mrs C Convery	27/3/25	Leading & Managing Numeracy
Mr C Duddy	1/4/25	Leading Effective Shared Education
Mr C Duddy	29/4/25	Great Strategic Leader
Mrs C Convery Mrs C Easom	2/5/25	Great Agile Leader
Mrs C Convery Mrs C Easom	7/5/25	Great Agile Leader
Mr C Duddy	8/5/25	Great Strategic Leader
Mrs C Convery	10/6/25	Autism Awareness
Mrs C Easom	11/6/25	School Based Anxiety Workshop
Mrs C Convery	11/6/25	Setting up Specialist Provision
Mr C Duddy	12/6/25	Effective Use of Pupil Data

Governor Training

Governor training was held online during the 2024-25 school year.

Child Protection Teachers 2024-25

Our appointed Child Protection teachers were:

1. Mrs Selena Page
2. Mr Gabriel O'Kane

They were available in connection with concerns regarding the welfare and 'protection' of pupils at our school. All teachers and staff are aware of child protection issues and were given Child Protection training in August 2023.

- Staff will respond using well-defined school procedures to 'concerns' raised by a child or adult when reported to them
- A new Child Protection Policy is available to all parents and was ratified by the Board of Governors on 15th October 2024.

Copies are available from the school's general office.

School Meals

Mrs Gormley and her team proved an excellent service to our school and are continually searching for ways to improve their provision. They continue to work closely with the EA to increase the nutritional value of our meals, which continue to be amongst the best provided in all local schools. When inspected by Derry City and Strabane District Council in conjunction with the Foods Standards Agency the kitchen was awarded a rating of 5 – the highest available.

The Governors wish to place on record their appreciation for all of the work carried out in the school kitchen and for the co-operation shown by Mrs Gormley and her staff when working with the Principal and the Teachers at all times of the year, where they provided meals and catering services beyond those required of them.

Review of the Year

The Curriculum

The governors are confident that Glendermott Primary School continues to provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment and offers a great variety of learning opportunities suitable to the needs of each pupil. Staff expertise and resources are well utilised to assist each child as they strive to reach their maximum potential. Due to reduced government and EA finance, the staff attended fewer courses organised by RTU, CCEA, ETI, the EA and other agencies but they have still been able to keep up to date with the ongoing changes and developments within education via online training.

The staff continues to engage in a range of strategies to support under achievers in both literacy and numeracy. Additional SEN support was again given both individually and in groups alongside Reading Recovery Sessions and Literacy advisory support from a teacher within the EA's Literacy Peripatetic Service.

Achievement

Academic progress has been maintained on every level and our reports reflect a school where the vast majority of children appreciate the importance of striving to always give their best. Our high level of good manners and respect for others has always been maintained and most importantly, both inside and outside the classroom, pupils have further developed the excellent name of Glendermott Primary School.

School Policies

The staff, in consultation with pupils, parents and governors, has produced a wide range of pastoral care and curriculum policies that is suited to the needs of current legislation, good practice and the revised curriculum. This year a number of policies were reviewed and updated.

Policy	Date Approved
Period Dignity	10/12/2024
Policy & Procedures for Child Protection	10/12/2024
Parent & Visitor Behaviour Policy	15/10/2024
Parent Communication Policy	15/10/2024
Attendance	15/10/2024
Risk Assessment	15/10/2024
Anti-bullying Policy	15/10/2024

Governors, parents, pupils and school staff have been consulted on all of these. All other policies may be obtained from the school.

School Development Plan 24-25

For the 24-25 school year we operated with an interim 1 year school development plan. Senior school staff took this decision based upon the fact that training on the SDP process was scheduled for this year.

This plan is the basis on which development will take place on an annual basis in the following areas - curriculum, pastoral issues, whole school development, community links, school management and building maintenance. Curriculum co-ordinators produced an Action Plan in their area of expertise as part of the School Development Plan for 2022-23. Throughout the year these plans were acted upon and evaluated regularly.

Due to industrial action this year no school development plan was completed. Senior staff in the school decided to follow union action and collectively decided to allow teaching staff this academic year to focus on the teaching and learning in their own classrooms. Peer mentoring and support was offered to teachers and in school training sessions were provided to enable teachers to improve their practice.

With the completion of EA training, a new 3 year School Development Plan will be produced in the Autumn term of 25-26.

After School Activities

During the year the teachers and outside agencies provided a programme of extra-curricular activities as a valuable extension to children's learning. These included:

Lego, French, Irish, Art, Cooking, Hurling, Camogie, Coding, Gardening and Eco

Calendar of Events 2024-25

We had a busy year in the school, this calendar of events is not designed as an exhaustive list, but rather it gives a flavour of some of the activities which occurred in or away from the school:

Date	Event
September	Skill School NI Taster Sessions Shared Education Good Relations Week
October	Dogs Trust Workshops P6 YES Project Halloween Disco
November	Red & White Day P6 GAA Blitz Peace Proms Workshop Big Bedtime Read P5 Fire Safety Talk P7 girls @ St Cecilia's Christmas workshop
December	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day P1 & 2 trip to Aughabrack Tradition Group at Ardnashee PTA Carols at the Tree P7 girls at St Mary's Christmas workshop P5,6&7 @ Wonka Carol Service Choir @ NW Cancer Centre Nursery Winter Wonderland P1 Nativity

	<u>P2 Nativity</u> <u>P3 Nativity</u> <u>Nursery Christmas Show</u> Visit from Road Safety Committee
January	<u>'Bring Your Grown Up' (4 sessions)</u> <u>Catholic Schools Week Mass</u> <u>Catholic Schools Week</u> <u>Girls Indoor Blitz</u> <u>P7 Grandparents</u>
February	<u>Traditional Group at An Culturlann</u> <u>Confirmation</u> <u>Safer Internet Day</u> P7 @ Credit Union Schools Quiz <u>Waste Busters</u> NSPCC Stay Safe Speak Out P6 PAWSb Aware NI <u>P7 Basketball</u> Girls GAA Blitz
March	<u>Peace Proms</u> Traditional Group @ Clipper Quay Yanna & Emelia German exchange students <u>P3 @ Nerve Centre</u> Getting Ready to Learn in Nursery World Book Day <u>P4</u> <u>Nursery</u> <u>P1</u> <u>P7</u> <u>Girls GAA Blitz</u>

	<u>St Patrick's Day Celebrations</u> <u>Break the Rules Day</u> Yanna & Emelia German exchange students
April	<u>Kidz Farm</u> <u>Girls GAA Championship</u> <u>Boys GAA Championship</u> P7 @ Diamond Centre Transition Workshop Oliver Twist <u>Glendermott's Got Talent</u> <u>P4 First Confession</u> <u>Boys' Small Sided Blitz</u> <u>Nursery Bike Race</u>
May	Red for Ryan GAA @ Faughanvale <u>P7 @ Verbal Arts for transition workshop</u> <u>P7 Girls @ Celtic Park</u> P7 CPR NW First Responders Bobby Hope NW Drugs & Alcohol Awareness <u>Families Connect</u> <u>First Communion</u>
June	<u>Nursery @ Tropical World</u> <u>Fan the Flame</u> <u>Smash It Cricket!</u> <u>KS2 Musical Showcase</u>

	P5&6 @ Moviebowl <u>P3&4 @ Bowling Alley</u> <u>P1 & 2 @ Lurgybrack</u> <u>P7 Lake Kilrea</u> <u>Sports Day</u> End of Year Fun Night
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Assessment & Reporting Academic Attainment

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. A key element of assessment is the continuous monitoring of pupil progress. Continuous monitoring, which has always been a feature of the work of teachers, emphasises the formative purpose of assessment. It also supports the summative aspects of assessment providing information about pupils' achievements.

Parents were given an opportunity to discuss with the class teacher their child's progress during arranged interviews in November and at other times during the year by appointment with the class teacher. The revamped annual written report, which covered all the subjects specified in the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, was sent to parents in June.

Despite industrial action, formal Key Stage Assessment arrangements took place throughout Key Stage 1 (P4) and Key Stage 2 (P7) and children in these year groups were given levels in accordance with the NI Curriculum, and these were reported to their parents, however they were not reported to CCEA or DENI. P7 pupils were issued with Records of Achievement folders before leaving school.

Special Education Needs 2024-25

“All children and young people are entitled to education of the highest quality which enables them to develop as individuals and gain skills, knowledge and understanding.”

– Together Towards Improvement - DENI

The identified educational needs of each child are catered for by his/her class teacher who is supported by our Special Needs teacher, senior staff including Principal and Board of Governors as well as other relevant outside agencies. Mrs J Kelly is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). We also have a number of SEN Assistants who provide one-on-one support for children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs at Stage 5 in the ‘Code of Practice’.

The Government’s Code of Practice on the identification and Assessment of Special Needs (1998 DE) and the Supplement to the Code of Practice (2005 DE) established the way the special education is managed in schools. The Board of Governors and teaching staff have worked to ensure that our school meets the requirements of this legislation and the development of an inclusive school community.

In our school we offer both withdrawal and in class support for children experiencing difficulties with the curriculum. We believe that we offered an extensive range of Special Needs Support in our school during 2023-24, including involving a range of outside agencies. Throughout the year there were 34 children on the SEN register in the Primary School or the Nursery from Stages 1 to 3.

In 2024-25 Special Needs Support was offered to:

- Children from P3 to P7 who are at Stage 2 on the Code of Practice, as well as children at Stage 3
- As well as SENCO help, additional Classroom Assistance support was provided to children with Statements of Educational Needs
- ‘Book Buddies’ is a very successful early intervention programme and we have trained assistants and Y7 children, who used their knowledge to provide additional reading assistance to children in P3 to P7
- The EA Educational Psychologist received 3 ‘referrals’ for identified children and undertook ‘reviews’ of 3 children with statements who were transferring to post primary.
- Three requests for statutory assessment were made.

Our SENCO also works alongside the outreach behaviour support from the EA and received advisory support for 2 children.

We work closely with specialised teachers from a range of ‘special support agencies’.

General Information

Friends of Glendermott

The school has an excellent Parent Support Group. This Group organises a variety of events throughout the year. We ask you to support their efforts. We'd like to acknowledge a very kind donation of £2800 that contributed to the cost of new carpet in the school office, P4 and P7 classrooms.

School Uniform

Glendermott PS and Nursery Unit have school uniforms that we expect all children to wear daily. Our thanks to the parents of our school for supporting this policy.

General School Statistics 2024-25

October 2024 Census Day Enrolment (inc. Nursery Unit)	BOYS	90	110	110	TOTAL	200
Intake Primary 1 September 2024	BOYS	10	GIRLS	13	TOTAL	23
Primary 7 Leavers June 2025	BOYS	13	GIRLS	12	TOTAL	25

Entitlement to Free School Meals 24-25	31.2%
School Attendance for School 24-25	95.6%

<u>Secondary School Placements:</u>	<u>Number of Pupils:</u>
Thornhill College	5
St Cecilia's College	3
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	8
St Mary's College	1
Lumen Christi College	1
Foyle College	5
Ardnashee College	1

Financial Statement 2024-25

The Board of Governors has produced a 3 Year Financial Development Plan and this plan has received approval from the EA. In this time of financial uncertainty the school's financial planning will ensure that financial prudence is maintained.

Detailed below:

(A) School Budget Analysis

Total Budget **£ 673,528**

Expenditure

Teaching Staff Costs £ 610,632

Non Teaching Staff Costs £ 137,117

Non Staff Costs £ 71469

Net Expenditure **£819218**

School Account Statement 2024-25

The school holds an account with the Danske Bank. The accounts listed below are from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Opening Balance: £16,641.01

Closing Balance: £13,419

Fundraising 2024-25

From Friends of Glendermott £2800

Conclusion

Finally, I wish to place on record my thanks to all members of the school community who have worked so conscientiously to ensure that pupils at Glendermott Primary School and Nursery Unit receive the best possible care and education.

As Chairperson I recommend this report as a true record of the discharge of the function of the Board of Governors at Glendermott during the school year 2024-25.

Mrs M Boyle, Chair of the Board of Governors