



Building  
together  
for our future.

Braidside Integrated Primary  
and Nursery School



Board of Governors  
**Annual Report**

**February 2020**  
**Annual Parents Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February@**  
**7pm**

Dear Parents,

At a point of each school year, we publish our Annual Report. This year we have waited until February, so we can provide a good update on the new build at the AGM. The report aims to outline some of the work in school during the past year, the work of the Governors and Parents' Council, the Extended Schools programme, information on the school community and beyond, SEN provision in school, future developments and a financial report. We invite you to attend our Annual Parents' Meeting which will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 7pm and which aims to allow for discussion of this report.

*School Vision Statement*

*"We aim to work together to support each child in reaching their personal and academic potential within a culture of mutual respect".*

Braidside IPS is a place where the ethos and principles of integrated education; of equality, faith and values, parental involvement and social responsibility; have been firmly embedded in all we do and seek to achieve. Our ethos of integration and our vision statement emphasise that we want all children to feel important, to feel valued, to be part of this learning community, to feel that they belong, to reach their personal potential and be proud of their achievements. We seek to do this within a culture of equality; where all children are aware of their inherent worth and where kindness, responsibility and respect for all is evident across the school.

We do this, in partnership with you, the parents. We encourage you to be involved in the life of the school, to support your children and to help us to continue to build an active integrated community.

J McAuley

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### **Board of Governors Report**

The current membership of the Board of Governors is as follows:

#### **Current Governors**

Parents and former parents make up the majority of our Board of Governors, with some valuable help from volunteer representatives appointed by the Department of Education. A list of Governors follows

#### **Foundation Governors**

**Maurice Johnston, Chairperson, Stephanie Elder, Vice Chair/ Secretary**  
Martin McConville, Ian McKay, Dermot Black, Matthew O'Neill

#### **Parent Governors**

Aisling O'Boyle, Pauline McNeill, Linda Loughran.  
1 Parent Governor vacancy.

#### **Department of Education nominees**

David Wall, Kelly Watson.  
There are currently 2 DENI Governor vacancies.

#### **Teacher Governors**

Shaunene Hart and Patricia Conly.

#### **Other members**

Graham Cochrane co-opted, Treasurer, and Julie McAuley, Principal.

### **Chairperson's Foreword**

The long wait is almost over. Our new school buildings are nearing completion and, like the pupils, the staff and governors are eagerly looking forward to moving in and making use of our superb new facilities. The whole process has taken a very long time, with some significant delays along the way, and I want to thank parents for your patience over recent years, as the fabric of our current buildings has deteriorated. Your children will soon be able to enjoy the comfortable and modern learning environment they deserve.

On behalf of the Board of Governors I also want to pay tribute to our School Principal Mrs. McAuley and her staff who have continued to deliver very high quality education as they have waited patiently for facilities to match the teaching provided in the school.

Apart from our new buildings, the main issues exercising the Board of Governors over the last year have been the continuing shortfall in the funding received from Government compared to what is needed to run the school and the on-going pay dispute affecting our staff. These are issues that are adversely impacting on every school in N.Ireland.

With the return of devolved government a few weeks ago there is now some cause for optimism that these problems will be addressed soon. Both are included as priorities agreed by all five main parties in the “New Decade New Approach” deal, and we must all now hold our politicians to their commitment to put our education system on a sound footing.

Finally, there is a vacancy on the BOG for a new parent governor. An election to fill the vacancy will take place at the Annual Parents Meeting. BOG meetings are held monthly, usually at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month and last around two hours. If you have a little time to spare I would encourage you to consider putting your name forward for this interesting and rewarding role. I look forward to seeing you on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Maurice Johnston - Chair Board of Governors.

### **Extended Schools Programme**

During 2018/19 the school received Extended Schools funding of £22,500 and this allowed us to provide additional activities before, during and after school, and to provide these without cost to parents. Activities which took place included the Morning Reading Club, reading partners, Playsport (football and dance), Jo Jingles, Gathering drum, Lego club and sessions with the Nerve Centre. During 2018/19 we introduced a school counselling service and in the first year 13 children were able to access counselling sessions on a one-to-one basis using the school referral system.

Feedback from parents and children who have participated in the counselling have been wholly positive. In this current time, when the focus on children's mental health and wellbeing is coming into sharper focus, it is hugely positive that we can offer this service.

Through Extended Schools we also have the opportunity to cluster with local schools and over the last few years this has been through a successful, shared Water sports activity with Castle Tower pupils.

As always we have had high numbers of children involved in the Extended Schools sessions, who developed their skills and showed great enjoyment and engagement. I am grateful to Mr Calderwood and the other staff members who contribute their time to keeping the programme running successfully.

In June 2019, we received confirmation of continued funding (£22,000) for this important programme in 2019/20 and while we have looked to continue with those popular sports, literacy and music activities we will also prioritise provision of the counselling service, developing drop-in sessions for parents to avail of professional advice and support. Our school counsellor Linda Jayne Elliot has already begun work with a small number of children in weekly sessions. Through the course of 19/20 we hope a number of children, parents and families will benefit from this service. The prevalence of mental health issues in NI and our community, together with the importance of ensuring pupil and adult well-being, require that we as teachers and Governors continue to look at ways in which we can address these issues and develop positive strategies across the school.

Parents will also be aware that we intend to launch the "Braidside Breakfast Club" in September 2020 when we can utilise the facilities in our new school. Following an online survey in December 2019, which produced positive and encouraging feedback, Governors agreed that this would be a welcome addition to the provision in school. We would hope to provide further information to parents in the third term and offer parents the opportunity to register for September 2020.

### **Parental Involvement**

As an Integrated School, it is a central principle for parents to be actively involved in their child's education and in the activities occurring in school. In the last school year, we held Parents' Council meetings, Sustrans Activities for children and families, Introductory meetings for Nursery and P1 parents, Nursery workshops

related to the Getting Ready to Learn Programme, Nursery Graduation, Celebration Events for Shared Education (May 2019), Sports' Days and we had our incredible KS1 Christmas Shows in December 2019 which were well attended by parents and families. We will have Parent Interviews in February 2020 and provide annual pupil reports, including standardised tests results, issued in June 2020.

We also enjoyed the Book Fair Coffee Afternoon and Parents' Council Christmas Disco for the children and continue to engage/ communicate with parents through our Facebook page and school website, as well as through traditional newsletters and the text message service. Having good communication between the school and parents/children remains a key objective for Braidside. We are grateful to those parents who participated in our recent online survey; which helps in planning for future developments.

We have also been holding 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meetings since June 2019 to plan and prepare for pupil and whole school events to celebrate 30 years of integration at Braidside. To date we have launched our celebration hoodies, had a Movie Morning, 30 things in 30 years' activities (ongoing), Coffee Afternoon, as well as articles in NI4Kids magazine and Learning Together (IEF). In the coming months we look forward to the Easter raffle, colouring competitions and a fireside quiz, as well as a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary disco. We hope to end the year with a whole school celebration in our new building- a fitting end to a remarkable year!

We are very grateful to the teaching and ancillary staff for their commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm and all the work and time that goes into class teaching, preparation and supporting the children, as well as planning and organising various school events. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for parents to engage throughout the year. For those who can volunteer some time, Parents' Council is an opportunity to share ideas and participate in planning events for the children. We would welcome any new members to the meetings that take place in school. Even if meetings are not suitable, you may be able to help during events. If so, please get in touch, you would be most welcome!

### **The school community and beyond**

During the last year we have taken up opportunities to work with other local schools, and to take part in local events. Our Primary 7 teachers were involved in the KS2/3 Literacy and Numeracy CPD Project as well as having opportunities for the children to attend performances in Dunclug College, Slemish College and Cambridge House. P6 and P7 participated too in a range of STEM activities and at the INN-O-V8 day in Cullybackey College. We were fortunate again to have the opportunity for our P7 children to attend the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament at the SSE Arena in November 2018 and 2019. This is such a wonderful evening of fun for our P7s and we hope they will remember the experience well.

Throughout 2018/19 we hosted work experience placements for senior students from Dunclug College, St Patricks' College and Slemish College, as well as NRC and University students (QUB, Stranmillis College, Edge Hill University) who aspire to a career in education or with children. These placements enable us to gain some additional support in our classrooms and allow the students to gain first-hand experience of the classroom environment.

The Braidside community has also been working to support others through the Rotary Club Hampers appeal, Odd Socks' Day for Integrated Education and Radio Cracker as well as the School Fit and Funky Day in June 2019, which raised over £3,800 for literacy and numeracy resources. Braidside IPS has always been a school which tries to make a contribution in the wider community and highlights the principles of social responsibility. Already this year, as part of our Harvest Celebrations, we asked children and families to donate food items for the local Food Bank, Trussel Trust. We were overwhelmed by the donations which came in and which demonstrated an awareness of the needs of others in our community. It is truly integration in action, when the children demonstrate such an awareness of world issues and seek to make a difference.

Within school again, we have also offered either as part of the school day or after school, choir, football, music, hockey, and swimming, as well as a Tuesday club for P3 children from 2 – 3pm. Last year for the first time, we were delighted to offer the children in P4 upwards the opportunity to participate in Musical Theatre singing lessons with local teacher, Mrs Phoebe McDonald. This group has delivered recitals for parents at Christmas and at the end of the school year. This year the children will

participate in Ballymena Festival in February 2020. It is wonderful to see the children enjoy their lessons, perform so competently and grow in confidence.

We also have an EA music tutor who provides strings tuition to a small group of children during 2018/19 and this will continue through 2019/20.

Our choir too have had an incredibly busy first term, with a wide range of opportunities to perform on Radio Cracker, at Creative Gardens and Pinewood Residential Home. They also performed alongside over 1000 children and the EA Youth Orchestra at the Belfast Carols event just before Christmas. The children had a large repertoire of songs to perform and were a credit to the school and their families during the performance. It was a memorable evening for the children, teachers and families who attended the concert. We are grateful to Mrs Fenton and Mr Calderwood for all the hard work and preparation during the Autumn term.

Throughout 2018/19, Mrs McAuley has attended meetings of the local Ballymena Primary Principals' Association as well as the Association of Principal Teachers in Integrated Schools (APTIS), while Mrs Bradley attends the NICIE VP forum, Miss Hart the SENCo cluster, with key coordinators attending Ballymena Area Cluster groups. Attendance in these groups allows for inclusion in professional discussion forums as well as the sharing of good practice. As Ballymena Principals, a document was developed and issued on behalf of all schools pertaining to aspects of social media. It was significant too, that Ballymena schools and teachers had the opportunity to participate in school development together in September 2020, when they attended the Sir John Jones Conference. Over 500 teachers came together to listen and be inspired by our guest speaker and remind us of the significance and importance of the role of teaching and the difference we can make to children's lives.

#### **Peace IV: Collaboration in Shared Education Project**

As of June 2019, we have now completed 2 years of our partnership in Shared Education with Buick MPS. In the Autumn Term of 2017/18, we started with P1 and P2 with a focus on play. In 2018/19 our partnership expanded to P1-P3 and the focus for year 2 moved to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Each year teachers have developed teaching and learning plans for the year with all children completing their 30 hours of shared education.

Our teachers and classroom assistants have been instrumental in helping to plan, prepare and execute the shared sessions and most importantly they continue to embrace the partnership and develop positive and productive relationships. Each year we have ended the year with Shared Celebration Events; which have been hugely successful, very well attended and positive opportunities for the 2 communities.

We are now well into our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the partnership and again we have incorporated P1-3 however, this year the focus has been the Arts with a focus on the theme of reconciliation. The objectives of the project are to enable shared teaching and learning sessions; to improve pupil outcomes, build relationships between the pupils, teachers, parents and wider community, to enable continued professional development for teachers and to share in the process of reconciliation.

We know our children thoroughly enjoy meeting up with their Buick friends and we look forward to welcoming parents and families to our celebration event at the end of the year.

### **School Development**

This year we begin Year 1 of our new 2019-22 School Development Plan and an overview of the work we hope to address will be outlined at the Parent Meeting. Areas within positive behaviour, literacy, numeracy, ICT, SEN and child protection, together with safeguarding and the new build form the core of the work for our school.

During 2018/19 we completed the following work through our Development plan and action plans:

<u>Completed Aspects of SDP Year 3</u>	<u>Partially Completed Aspects of Year 3</u>
Child Protection: Policy updates Preventative work with Women's Aid First Aid training for P2 staff and assistants SG Govs appointed and training attended. LAC project involvement	ISEF document; further sections completed with staff Governance section completed with BOG. Middle management section for next SDP
SEN Training opps for new SEND Act Staff meeting/ Gov meeting SIMS work	Nursery: GRTL programme successfully completed for Yr3 Review of policies
Numeracy: Review of numeracy homework, parent consultation	TWAO: scheme on-going Work on WAO topics/ planners remains



Policy review sent to Gov to be ratified June 2019	
Governors: Use of ISEF document to evaluate school governance. ETI safeguarding proforma/ CP training session Gov training programme Implementation of IEF marketing project	IEF Marketing Grant: including work on the new website Project last until Jan 2020:.
Literacy review and evaluate current scheme of work. World Book Day event.	.
ASSESSMENT Processes	
Positive Behaviour/ Anti-Bullying: Nurture Work through Term 1 and 2; Staff meetings/ development time re Beh. Review of Pos Beh Pol Addressing Bullying in Schools Training for 2019-20.	
PDMU: Sustrans programme, Year 2	.
Peace IV: Shared Ed, Year 2	
PREMISES WORK	
Collaboration with Ballymena Coordinator Clusters	
Extended Schools programme	
IEF Marketing Grant: including work on the new website	
KS2/3 Project	

In the last number of years courses and professional development for teachers have become less frequent. However, throughout 2018/19 staff attended the following training opportunities:

**J McAuley:** Safeguarding/ Child Protection, ETI Conference, EA Children Looked After Project, EA Nurturing Approaches, Bullying in Schools and Integration course with NICIE.

**S Hart:** SEND training, SENCO forum and cluster group.

**K Bradley:** VP Forum, Shared Education and Numeracy Co-ordinators' cluster group.

**C Young:** KS2/3 CPD, Literacy Cluster, Educating the Heart Training, Science of the Titanic.

**K O'Neill:** C2k training, Educating the Heart (Children in Crossfire)

**E Heffron:** Shared Education training

**C Fulton:** ICT cluster, C2k online briefing, NAACE self-review framework course  
**K Turner:** Developing motor skills, Building Blocks (GRTL programme)  
**D Lunnun/ M Wright/ L Kerr :** Autism Course.  
First Aid Training

Staff also attended a range of teacher training days and twilight sessions held across the school year looking at whole school self-evaluation, Assessment analysis, Curriculum development and whole school issues. Governors too have benefitted from a variety of training opportunities provided through the EA Training Programme and covering Safe-guarding and Child Protection, Induction for New Governors and other relevant matters.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Over many years, staff at Braidside IPS have committed time, enthusiasm and significant resources to meeting the needs of those children who have special needs. We continue to provide additional support for special educational needs at Braidside. This ranges from differentiated work, to a short boost to ongoing support. While most support is offered in class through individual education plans and differentiated teaching, a team of experienced teaching assistants can provide small group support where appropriate. We also have a small number of SEN / Behaviour Support assistants who work 1-to-1 with specific children. This support team accounts for most of our targeted funding for meeting additional needs. Ensuring that all children access the curriculum, make progress and achieve their best outcomes is key to all provision. As noted earlier we continued to work with a range of external services and had support from RISE NI, Behaviour Support, Autism Advisory and Intervention Service and from the Educational Psychology service.

### **Sustrans: Active Travel Programme 2018/19**

Throughout 2018/19 we have had a superb programme of events and activities for the children and school to enjoy. Mrs Carey was our active school champion and we participated in Feet First Families day, the Big Pedal day and in school work on Road Safety and completed an Active School Travel Policy.

We were delighted that as a result of our involvement in the programme we achieved a Silver Award which was presented at a special assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. We were very grateful to Mrs Carey for her work with the Sustrans Project and following her retirement in August 2019, Mrs Horan has now taken over as our Active School Travel Champion. We look forward to upcoming activities as well as planning for the year ahead and striving for that Gold Award.

### **Student Council**

Under the guidance of Mrs Young, our wonderful P7 children had a very successful year on the Student Council. Following prepared speeches to Key Stage 2 during assembly last Autumn, the KS2 children were able to cast their vote for a chosen

candidate. A small group of 7 children were elected and met with Mrs Young to work on projects during 2018/19.

Firstly, the children organised and held our first ever Braidside Bake Sale; which proved to be a hugely successful event. We were inundated with baked goods and the Student Council raised £525. Next they organised and held a very enjoyable and Mothers' Day Event in March 2019. Through their endeavours they raised £930 which they used to purchase new ICT equipment for the school I pads. Now in 2019/20 we look forward to seeing what new and exciting projects and leadership opportunities lie ahead for the new Student Council. Already this year they held a Penny Drive, raising £576, to support our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Movie Morning. Thanks to the children for all their work and ideas and to Mrs Young for her commitment and support of the council.

### **Parent Council**

Parent Council have delivered a number of very enjoyable activities during 2018/19 the Christmas Disco for children and attendance at Open Day. Parents' Council meet in the school, meetings are advertised through newsletters/ Facebook and new members are always welcome. Thanks to this dedicated group of parents for the support they provide and willingness to give up some of their time to the children.

### **Attendance 2018/19**

Throughout the last school year, we continued to implement the monthly Attendance Tea Party for classes with the highest attendance percentage each month. At the end of the year we also had a tea party for those children who had achieved attendance of 100%. The purpose of the tea parties is to encourage and provide an incentive for regular school attendance. Statistics clearly demonstrate the positive impact regular attendance can have on pupils' progress and outcomes. As we strive to help each child meet their potential, we ask that parents continue to support regular attendance. Our whole-school attendance for 2018/19 was 92.48% %, while our target for 2019/20 is 94%. This is a very achievable target and hopefully I can report that we met this target next year!

### ***Attendance Figures for Whole School 2018-19***

2018-19	
Month	Pupil attendance (%)
September '18	96.68%
October '18	94.64%

November '18	92.90%
December '18	88.79%*
January '19	91.97%*
February '19	91.04%
March '19	92.02%
April '19	90.53%
May '19	91.59%
June '19	90.43%
Year 2018/9	92.48%

### **Braidside Facebook Page and Website**

The Braidside Facebook page continues to allow us the opportunity to keep parents up-to-date with the many different activities that go on throughout the week. It also allows you to get a glimpse of what happens throughout various year groups and to celebrate and enjoy school life. Thanks to Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Young and Miss Hart who oversee and administer the page. So far the page has been a very successful development and it is great to see so many of the children featured. We hope you have enjoyed the Facebook page too and we look forward to bringing you much more news and events from 2019/20.

In October 2018 we also launched our new and improved school website ([www.braidside.co.uk](http://www.braidside.co.uk)) and we are delighted that currently over 140 people have also downloaded the app onto devices which enables you to access information and receive news, alerts and reminders. Each month we continue to see between 1500-1800 visits to the site and it is our objective that this develops communication between the school community.

### **Leavers' Destinations June 2019**

In June 2019 we had 46 children leave Braidside and transfer to secondary school.

They transferred to:

Dunclug College : 7 (15%)

Slemish College: 26 (56%)

St Louis Grammar : 3 (7%)

Ballymena Academy: 1 (2%)

St Patricks' College: 5 (11%)

Cullybackey College: 1 (2%)

### **Assessment Outcomes (2018/19)**

In common with many schools, continuing industrial action meant that there was a boycott of the CCEA End of Key Stage Assessment process, and end of Key Stage data was therefore not available.

As a school we continue to use GL standardised assessment tests to collect and collate information on progress in Maths (PTM) and English (PTE) tests, and data from this allows us to track attainment. Parents will have received their child's most recent standardised scores from May 2019 in their child's annual report in June 2019.

During the Autumn term, we have an annual staff development day where we scrutinise and analyse the children's scores. We endeavour to track children's progress individually as well as identifying specific areas within literacy and numeracy for future development. This data is in addition to teacher observations and formative assessment procedures which occur normally through the course of a school year.

**Thanks go to our pupils, staff, parents and Governors  
for their support and interest across the school year.**

### **BRAIDSIDE IPS TREASURERS REPORT 2018/19**

Total income for the year, excluding new school build grant, was £1.038m, an increase of £30,000 on the previous year. Education Authority grant accounted for all but £41,000 of this income.

Total staff costs were £934,000, an increase of £27,000 on the 17/18 figure.

Expenditure on other operating costs was £6,000 more than last year. Overall, a deficit of almost £13,000 was recorded for 18/19, leaving an accumulated surplus carried forward to the current financial year of almost £33,000.

The figures above give the impression that school finances are reasonably sound. However, under-funding in the education sector is approaching crisis point. This can be illustrated by the 19/20 budget for Braidside IPS. Total income is budgeted to be £1.030m and total costs to be £1,140m, giving a deficit for the year of £110,000. In common with most other schools in Northern Ireland, Braidside will go into deficit at some point during 2019/20. Unless EA grant funding increases dramatically, the financial position will continue to decline significantly.

# BRAIDSIDE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

INCOME	2019
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS	£2,251,694*
RECEIPTS FROM OTHER SOURCES	£41,688
	<b>£2,293,382</b>
EXPENDITURE	
TEACHING STAFF COSTS	£703,668
NON-TEACHING STAFF COSTS	£230,528
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	£1,372,178
	<b>£2,306,372</b>
SURPLUS	<b>(£12,992)</b>
SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEARS	£45,716
SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2019/20	<b>£32,714</b>

Note: (\*Dept of Education Grants include recurrent grant, new school build grants and Extended Schools funding)