



Building
together
for our future.

Braidside Integrated Primary
and Nursery School



Board of Governors
Annual Report

November 2018
Annual Parents Meeting 13th November 2018@
7pm

Dear Parents,

At this point of each school year, we publish our Annual Report. 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 13th November 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 respect for all is recognised and 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.

JMcAuley

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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 (with the date that their current term of office ends).

Foundation Governors

Maurice Johnston, Chairperson (April 19), **Stephanie Elder, Vice Chair/Secretary** (September 19)
Judith Byrne, (November 19), Ian McKay (November 18),
Dermot Black (November 18, Patricia O'Lynn (September 20)

Parent Governors

Aisling O'Boyle (April 19), Martin McConville (September 2019), Pauline McNeill (November 21).
1 Parent Governor vacancy.

Department of Education nominees

Tony Gatt (April '21), David Wall (April '21), Kelly Osborne (September '21)
There is currently 1 DENI Governor vacancy.

Teacher Governors

Claire Young (November '18) and Karen O'Neill (November '18).

Other members

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

This is an exciting time for the Braidside school community. After a number of frustrating delays work is now well underway on our long- awaited new school buildings. Our new school will provide state of the art facilities for our teachers and up to 420 pupils. This will allow us to move into the next stage of our development with great confidence.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of Braidside's opening it is worth reflecting for a moment on how far we have come. In November 1988 a group of enthusiastic and committed parents and supporters were finalising their plans for Ballymena's first integrated school which opened 10 months later in a disused factory building in

Harryville with 28 pupils. These were drawn, like now, in almost equal numbers from Protestant, Catholic and other faiths or none at all. These parents wanted their children to learn together and create friendships across our divided community, in a school where the needs of each child were valued and provided for. This all seems so natural now, but at the time there was considerable opposition and a general belief that it couldn't work in Ballymena.

Of course the challenges for schools nowadays are quite different but nonetheless very significant. Funding available to all schools has been systematically reduced by the government for several years and teachers have endured many years of below inflation pay rises, or none at all. The situation is made worse in N. Ireland by the lack of a functioning Assembly and Executive, meaning that important decisions necessary for the efficient running of the education service are not being taken. Every school is facing very serious financial challenges but due to careful management of our budgets over the years Braidside remains in a relatively healthy position compared to many others. It is the case, however that governors are continually having to make difficult choices about how to spend the available money and there really are no more easy ways to make savings.

Despite all of this Braidside continues to provide an outstanding learning experience for our pupils in a happy school environment and has a well-deserved reputation for catering for the varied needs of all our children. This could not happen without the dedication and professionalism of our teachers and our ancillary staff, and on behalf of the Board of Governors I want to say a sincere thank-you to Mrs McAuley and her team for their work over the last year.

We intend to mark the 30th anniversary with an appropriate celebration and ideas from parents on how to do this would be most welcome. Of course we will also be celebrating moving to our new premises around the same time, so the next 12 to 18 months should be a really exciting time for everyone involved with Braidside. There is no better time to take a more active involvement in the life of the school than now, if you have a little time to spare. Please let us know if you have ideas on how we could refresh our Parents Council or how we could improve communication between parents and the school.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along to our Annual Meeting, when as well as providing an update on the new build project we will be holding an

election to fill a vacancy for a new Parent Governor on our Board. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Maurice Johnston (Chair of Board of Governors)

Extended Schools Programme

During 2017/18 the school received Extended Schools funding of £22,000 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, Code Club and sessions with the Nerve Centre. 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 Watersports 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 who contribute their time to keeping the programme running successfully.

In June 2018, we received confirmation of continued funding for this important programme in 2018/19 and while we have looked to continue with those popular sports, literacy and music activities we have also allocated some of the funds to the provision of a school counselling service through Family Works NI. Our school counsellor Linda Jayne Elliot has begun work with a small number of children in weekly sessions. Through the course of 18/19 we hope a number of children, parents and families will benefit from this service. As a school we are increasingly aware of the need to address the many and varied needs that children and families experience. Significantly 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.

Parental Involvement

As an Integrated School, it is a central principle to encourage 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 (June 2018), Sports' Days and we had our incredible KS1 Christmas Shows in December 2017 which were well attended by parents and families. These were in addition to the Annual Parents Meeting in November 2017, Parent Interviews in February 2017 and annual pupil reports.

This year to date we have had Nursery and P1 Class Introductory Talks, Sustrans "Feet First Families" and Book Fair. We look forward to presenting the KS2 Show, Parents' Council Christmas Disco for the children as well as continuing to engage/ communicate with parents through our Facebook page and school website, as well as through traditional newsletters. Parent Interviews will take place in February 2019 and annual reports will be issued in June 2019.

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 continue to be involved in the KS2/3 Literacy and Numeracy CPD Project as well as having opportunities to attend performances in Dunclug College and Cambridge House. P6 and P7 participated too in a range of STEM activities at St Louis Grammar and at the INNOV8 day in Cullybackey College. Last year we were fortunate to have the opportunity for our P7 children to attend the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament at the SSE Arena. Our P7s will attend this year again. We have benefitted too from the Belfast Giants' Schools Programme and this enabled staff and school families to gain tickets to matches at a discounted rate.

Throughout 2017/18 we hosted work experience placements for senior students from Dunclug College, St Patricks' College and Slemish College, as well as

NRC and University students 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.

Braidside has also been working to support others in the community through the Shoebox Appeal (Samaritan's Purse), Rotary Club Hampers, Odd Socks' Day for Integrated Education, Radio Cracker as well as the School Sponsored Walk last October; which raised over £5,500 for school resources. Braidside IPS has always been a school which tries to make a contribution in the wider community and highlights the principle of social responsibility. Already this term P6O organised and held a non-uniform day just before half-term to raise funds for the Indonesia Appeal, following the earthquake and tsunami. To their credit, they approached Mrs McAuley with the proposal for a fundraiser and shared their ideas during assembly. They were able to raise more than £200 in donations and we are grateful for parents' support. It is truly integration in action, when the children demonstrate such an awareness of world issues and seek to make a difference. We are very proud of the Braidside children.

Within school we have also offered, either as part of the school day or after school, choir, football, coding club, music, hockey, and swimming, as well as a Tuesday club for P3 children from 2 – 3pm.

Two EA music tutors provided woodwind and strings tuition to a small group of children during 2017/18 and this year we will have strings tuition continue.

Throughout 2017/18 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 and key coordinators attend Ballymena Area Cluster groups. Attendance in these groups allows for inclusion in professional discussion forums as well as the sharing of good practice.

Peace IV: Collaboration in Shared Education Project

In the Autumn Term of 2017/18, we applied to Peace IV: CASE Project for funding for a shared education partnership with Buick Memorial PS. We were delighted to receive confirmation just before Christmas '17 that our application had been successful. In the new year we began our partnership with Buick MPS, starting with P1 and P2 with a focus on play. In 2017/18 we completed our teaching and learning plans for the year with all children completing their 30 hours of shared education.

Our teachers and classroom assistants were instrumental in helping to plan, prepare and execute the shared sessions and most importantly they embraced this new partnership and new opportunity for Braidside wholeheartedly. Teachers had 3 days out of the classroom to plan, prepare and evaluate and Mrs McAuley and Buick Principal, Miss R Peters have also had 2 days to access training.

We also ended the year's activities with 2 Shared Celebration Events; which were hugely successful, very well attended and positive opportunities for the 2 communities.

We look forward now to planning for year 2 and our intention would be to extend the partnership out to P1-3, and this year to look at STEM within the context of play. 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 were delighted with all that was achieved this year; the partnership exceeded our expectations and the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting, playing and learning with their Buick friends. We look forward to the partnership continuing throughout 2018/19.

School Development

This year we are in Year 3 of our 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 2017/18 we completed the following work through our Development plan and action plans:

| <u>Completed Aspects of SDP Year 2</u> | <u>Ongoing work from Year 2</u> |
|---|--|
| Child Protection: Policy review and new policy issued Preventative work with Women's Aid and PSNI First Aid training for P1 staff | Whole school Self-evaluation work |
| Numeracy: Updated policy issued; Focus on Shape/ space for CBD; involvement in Maths Week (Oct '17) | Literacy: review scheme of work |
| Nursery: GRTL programme successfully completed for Yr2; Teacher EPD supported and completed/signed off. | ICT: ICT planners and portfolio work. |
| Governors: Election of new Chair; establishment of sub-committees; use of ISEF document to evaluate school governance | Play: work on audit of current practice commenced. |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| SEN: SEN policy ratified in May 2018, training for SENCo and P; staff to attend appropriate ASD training sessions. | TWAU: scheme on-going |
| ICT: Coding sessions completed with P6/7; training session (SDD) with staff in Feb '18. | RE: working party established |
| ASSESSMENT | |
| Transition: Policy, procedures and protocols in place. Developing relationships with pre-school providers | |
| PDMU: Sustrans programme | |
| Peace IV: Shared Ed | |
| Collaboration with Ballymena Coordinator Clusters | |
| Extended Schools programme | |
| Community links; including Sponsored walk etc. | |

In the last number of years courses and professional development for teachers have become less frequent. However, throughout 2017/ 18 staff attended the following training opportunities:

JMcAuley: Peace IV training sessions (vision and the role of the link teacher), Primary Principals' Head Space conference, APTIS Conference, Principals' Engagement Event re Mental Health, Behaviour and Early Intervention, Finance, Safeguarding/ Child Protection

S Hart: SEND training, Behaviour support session, Risk Assessment session

K Bradley: VP Forum, NICIE Sharing Good Practice session at NICIE, Numeracy cluster

C Young: KS2/3 CPD, Literacy cluster

K O'Neill: INTO Social Media Training (3 days)

E Heffron: Activity Based Learning Session

C Fulton: C2k Inspire Conference, ICT cluster

D Lunnun: Autism Course, Behaviour Support course.

First Aid Training

EPD training for relevant teachers

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, Area Planning, SEN, Recruitment and Complaints Procedures.

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 2017/18

Throughout 2017/18 we have had a superb programme of events and activities for the children and school to enjoy. Mrs Carey has been our active school champion and we have participated in Ditch the Dark, Ditch the stabilisers, a teacher cycle skills session, national standards training for P6 and P7, 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 Bronze Award which was presented at a special assembly on 27th September 2018. We also came 3rd in UK on Big Pedal Day in May 2018 when 74% of the children travelled actively on that day. We are grateful to Mrs Carey for her work with the Sustrans Project.

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 2017/18.

Firstly, they organised and held a hugely enjoyable and successful Mothers' Day Event in March 2018. Through their endeavours they raised £620 which they used to purchase new playground equipment for the children during break and lunch.

Then in June 2018, the children worked alongside the PSNI Traffic Branch to carry out the first Kids' Court in the Ballymena Area. While the Police identified those speeding outside our school gates, the children were then able to ask a number of questions to those who came to meet them. The children were very professional during the Court and in meeting local drivers. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.

In 2018/19 we look forward to seeing what new and exciting projects and leadership opportunities lie ahead for the new Student Council. Thanks to Mrs Young for her commitment and support of the council.

Parent Council

Parent Council have delivered a number of very enjoyable activities during 2017/18 including support for the School Sponsored Walk and specifically the barbecue after the walk, 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 2017/18

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%, this was approx. 10 children. 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 2017/18 was 91%, while our target for 2017/18 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 2017-18

| 2017-18 | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Month | Pupil attendance (%) |
| September '17 | 96.36% |
| October '17 | 94.65% |
| November '17 | 93.22% |
| December '17 | 85.88%* |
| January '18 | 89.05%* |
| February '18 | 92.02% |
| March '18 | 90.92% |
| April '18 | 94.24% |

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| May '18 | 90.68% |
| June '18 | 89.10% |
| Year 2017-18 | 91.85% |

*Note poor weather through December 2017 and January 2018 (exceptional closure for wind and snow/icy conditions)

Braidside Facebook Page and Website

The Braidside Facebook page continues to allow us the opportunity to keep you 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 2018/19.

In October 2018 we also launched our new and improved school website (www.braidside.co.uk) and we look forward to developing this throughout the course of this year. A useful calendar, newsletters, class pages and updates on the new build will be available and we look forward in the future to communicating through the website and sending fewer paper letters/ documents home to parents.

Leavers' Destinations June 2018

In June 2018 we had 37 children leave Braidside and transfer to secondary school.

They transferred to:

Dunclug College : 6 (16%)

Slemish College: 22 (59%)

St Louis Grammar : 4 (11%)

Ballymena Academy: 1 (3%)

St Patricks' College: 3 (8%)

Cambridge House: 1 (3%)

Assessment Outcomes (2017/18)

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 2018 in their child's annual report in June 2018.

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 2017/18

Total income for the year (excluding building grants) was £1.039m, a decrease of £74,000 on the previous year. Recurrent grant from the Education Authority accounted for all but £31,000 of this income. Total staff costs were £907,000, a decrease of £54,000 on last year. Expenditure on all Other Operating costs was £153,000 representing £4,000 more than in 2017/18.

Cost control becomes progressively more difficult each year. The School has probably reached the stage where it is unable to make further expenditure cuts, as evidenced by the small increase in Other Operating costs. Overall, a deficit of £21,000 was recorded for 2017/18, giving an accumulated surplus carried forward to 2018/19 of £46,000.

Total income for the current financial year, 2018/19, has already fallen by approximately £30,000. Payroll costs are forecast to be substantially higher. A significant deficit is predicted for 18/19, which may completely exhaust the surplus brought forward. Fortunately, the new build will soon be a reality. The new school will be state of the art. Pupil numbers are expected to increase significantly. With additional pupils comes additional grant income. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

BRAIDSIDE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

| INCOME | 2018 |
|---|-------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS | £2,140,098 |
| RECEIPTS FROM OTHER SOURCES | £31,095 |
| | £2,172,023 |
| | |
| EXPENDITURE | |
| TEACHING STAFF COSTS | £706,862 |
| NON-TEACHING STAFF COSTS | £200,266 |
| OTHER OPERATING COSTS | £1,285,763 |
| | £2,192,891 |
| | |
| SURPLUS | (£20,868) |
| | |
| SURPLUS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEARS | £66,584 |
| | |
| SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2017/18 | £45,716 |