

**GIBSON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS'**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023 – 2024**

## THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Transferors' Representatives:

Rev J Cowan (Chair)

Canon R Clarke

Mr W D Reilly

Mrs J Vance

### Western Education & Library Board Representatives:

Mr M Beattie (Vice Chairman)

Mrs Y Reid

### Parents' Representatives:

Mrs R Harper

Mr D McIvor

### Teacher Representative:

Mrs W Irwin

### Principal:

Mr K Sterritt (Non voting member of the Board)

The Board of Governors is required to meet 3 times each year but in practice meetings occur more often than this. During 2023/2024, the Governors met regarding:

- The Delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- Staff Appointments, Attendance & Welfare
- Admissions Policy and Open Enrolment
- Self-Evaluation and School Development Planning
- Policy Review
- Budget Management
- Performance Review & Staff Development
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Salary Review
- Responding to Department of Education and EA Initiatives
- Child Protection and Safeguarding measures
- Reporting to parents

The four-year term of office of the new Board began in September 2020 and will run until September 2024. The reconstitution process began in Term 3 with new parent representatives elected.

## ENROLMENT

Enrolment during 2023/24 remained strong with 320 pupils (including the Speech and Language Units) being enrolled. While enrolment remained steady, significant financial pressures remained.

Our pupils' attendance continued to be above the Northern Ireland average with the school average being 95.6%. Spells of sickness, medical appointments and family holidays during term time were the main absences.



## CHILD PROTECTION

Our Child Protection Policy is available to view on our school website and is reviewed annually. It is also available in paper copy upon request. Child friendly posters are on display around the school to ensure pupils know who they can talk to. All procedures continue to be fully implemented with criminal background checks and induction training being provided for all newly appointed staff.

Mr Sterritt is the designated teacher for child protection and both Mrs Irwin and Mrs Shortt are the deputy designated teachers for child protection. All staff received updated child protection training in August 2023. Children are regularly reminded to take care during assemblies or in class and through links with other organisations including NSPCC and through various initiatives such as Safer Internet Day.



## STAFF STRUCTURE

In the 2023/24 school year, our teaching staff consisted of:

<b>Year 1</b>	Mrs J Anderson	Mrs Y Aiken / Mrs H Russell (job share)
<b>Year 2</b>	Mrs L Simpson	Mrs A Pollock
<b>Year 3</b>	Mrs K McMullin	Mrs R Browne
<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs L Doherty	
<b>Year 4/5</b>	Mr S Elliott	
<b>Year 5</b>	Mr P Kane	
<b>Year 6</b>	Mrs E Maguire	Mrs J Baird
<b>Year 7</b>	Mrs B Jobb	Mrs W Irwin (Vice Principal)
<b>Language Classes</b>	Mrs S Shortt	Mrs E Davidson Mrs E Beggs
<b>Principal</b>	Mr K Sterritt	

**Classroom Assistants** R Kyle, C Moss, R Murphy, W Telford, F Fyffe, P Hamill, R McClintock, E Fleming, K McMullin, H Hutchinson, A Loughlin, E Donaghy, E Aiken, V McGonigle, A White, I Neil, K Picking, A Brush, V McFarland, Y Williams, C Beattie, D Colhoun, R Reid, S Vaughan, L Ellis, L Spence

**Executive Officer** Mrs D Clarke      **Senior Clerical Officer** Mrs L McFarland

**Building Supervisor** Mr S Gilfillan

### Staff Changes

Governors reviewed staffing and made forward plans for the academic year 2024 – 2025.

Mrs Yvonne Aiken resigned in June 2024 following 34 teaching in Gibson Primary School. A number of classroom assistants also moved on to other employment in June 2024.



## INSERVICE TRAINING

The five 'Baker' days in August and five Staff Development Days are key elements of our Continued Professional Development Programme. They were used to plan and prepare for quality learning and teaching and to address specific issues identified in our School Development Plan, as outlined below.

	<b>1. DATE</b>		<b>2. FOCUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT</b>
Baker Days	Day	Date	<i>The focus for each day should link to, and support, the priorities identified in the school's development plan.</i>
Day 1	Friday	24 August	Classroom Preparation and planning Teacher meetings & Transfer of Information
Day 2	Tuesday	28 August	SDP review Child Protection Refresher Training
Day 3	Wednesday	29 August	Classroom Preparation, Planning & Data Analysis Policy Review
Day 4	Thursday	30 August	Smartboard Training Staff meeting – Identification of SDP focus
Day 5	Friday	31 August	Curriculum Content review and Curriculum Planning Term 1 Priorities / timetable – Coordinator Action Planning
SDDs	Day	Date	
Day 1	Friday	3 November	Data Analysis & WAU (Practical Science) Sessions Literacy, Numeracy & ICT Task identification
Day 2	Wednesday	3 January	Curriculum Content & Curriculum Planning Review Co-ordinator Action Plan Review
Day 3	Monday	19 February	SDP focus Review Literacy Scheme of Work – Writing
Day 4	Monday	25 March	Data Analysis ICT, Numeracy & Literacy Focus
Day 5	Tuesday	28 May	School Development Plan Review Report Writing

## SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

School accounts are monitored by Governors as a standing item of every meeting. Individual school accounts are audited annually by Watson & Colhoun Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors. The Board of Governors would like to express their appreciation to the staff at Watson and Colhoun for their professional oversight of our accounts.

Delegated budget funds allocated by the Department of Education are managed by Governors with the assistance of EA LMS (Local Management of Schools) officers. While all schools are reporting challenges financially Gibson Primary School continues to operate within the budget allocation given, although this is becoming more and more challenging.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We continue to support pupils with Special Educational Needs in a wide variety of ways with our recently refurbished Sensory Room being widely used. We also have specially trained Classroom Assistants who support pupils on a 1-1 basis as well as withdrawing those pupils who require additional assistance learning their key words or sounds.



## SCHOOL LIFE

### Wrap Around Care

Once again our Breakfast Club began at 8.00am daily and was extremely well attended with over 60 pupils a week attending.

A newly extended After School Provision which ran until 5.00pm was initiated. This proved very popular with over 100 pupils attending on a weekly basis.

### PTA Events

Our PTA ran a number of events including a Halloween Disco, Christmas Fun Days, Easter Raffles and a Summer Carnival which all added to the enjoyment of our pupils. They also raised significant funds and currently sit with approximately £17,000 to be utilised to enhance learning and teaching.



As is traditional in Gibson, Santa arrived in style this year being escorted in a rally car, before visiting all the boys and girls in their classrooms.





### Additional Curricular Activities

In order for our pupils to experience the widest range of possible activities it was arranged that additional activities for Year 1 – 3 pupils would take place from 2.00 – 3.00pm on Mondays while Year 4 – 7 pupils would have their additional activities from 2.00 – 3.00pm on Fridays. The pupils were able to participate in:

Running, Fitness, Rugby, Multisports, Hockey, Outdoor Play, Orienteering, Forest Friends, Cookery, Languages, Yoga/Mindfulness, Construction and many more!



### Sporting Activities

As always sport played a huge part in our school life with pupils representing school in a number of different competitions and events.





While these were mainly team events we also entered the school cross country events for the first time with over 40 pupils taking part.



### Sports Day

Once again this proved to be a highlight of the school year with over 200 parents attending the Year 1 – 3 and Year 4 – 7 events. Pupils competed over a number of different events with a high level of talent and sportsmanship on display!





## Educational Visits

Our Year 7 pupils visited The Share Centre in Fermanagh for their residential trip in June. This will be the last year of these trips with parents voting to return to the residential trips to Edinburgh and York. The pupils had a great time learning to Gorge Climb, Paddleboard, Orienteer and compete in Laser Tag!



While the Year 7 pupils had the opportunity of an overnight trip, all other classes also participated in numerous trips and events outside of school. Once again, our pupils were repeatedly praised about their manners and levels of behaviour.







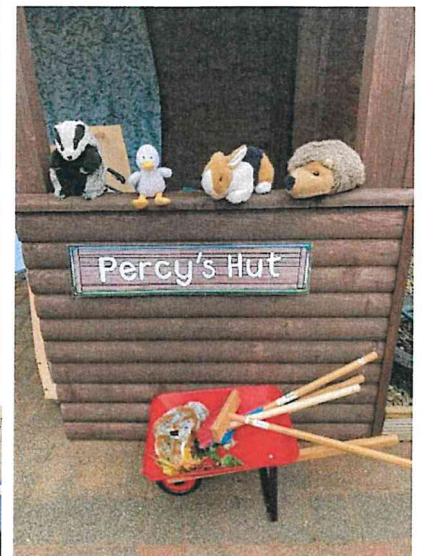
### Visitors to School

Not only did our pupils visit a number of different places we also had visitors to class who helped our pupils learn about different jobs, different roles and different people who can help us.



## Learning Beyond the Classroom

Once again, our Outdoor Learning Environment was a well used resource for all classes with the forest being regularly occupied by one class or another. While our Foundation Stage pupils made good use of their outdoor learning areas, which were regularly themed for different topics!



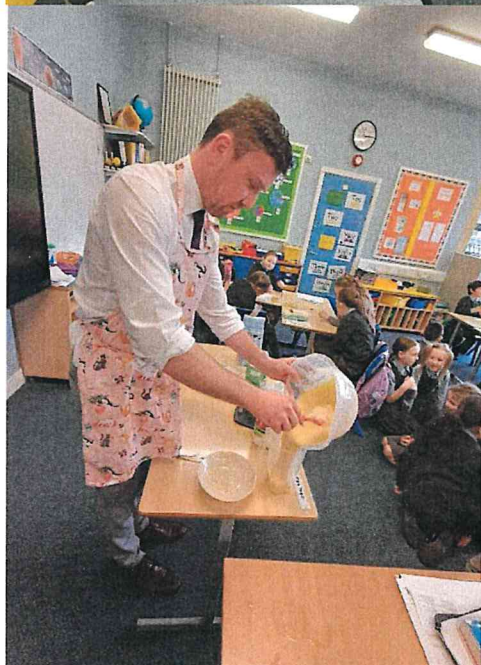


This year we also invested in a new bespoke Orienteering Scheme which is set up around the school grounds and allows pupils to develop skills right across the curriculum. It was great to see so many pupils utilising this resource to further their learning.



### Special Events in School

A number of themed days also took place with Year 1 having a special Mother's Day Assembly, Year 2 having Pirate Day while World Book Day and Pancake Tuesday proved as popular as ever! Pupils in our Speech and Language Classes also celebrated Development Language Disorder Day.





### **School Choir**

Our school choir took many opportunities to perform throughout our community with visits to local Nursing Homes, community events, churches and charities taking place, as well as performing for the rest of the pupils in Friday assemblies. As usual they were widely complimented on their performances. A huge thanks goes to Mrs Irwin and Vicci McFarland for the tremendous amount of work put into developing our choir.



### **Healthy Break Initiative**

Thanks to support from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and McBrides Spar we were able to provide all pupils with a free healthy break for the whole month of January. This proved very popular and the pupils enjoyed trying new things.

### **Parent Events**

Thankfully we were able to run a wide variety of events for parents to attend with our Christmas Shows, Brighter Breakfasts, Little Learners. PTA events and Special Assemblies all proving well supported by our parents.



This completes our Governors' Report for the 2023/2024 school year. We have a lot to celebrate and remember in the course of one year and we are mindful that we are indebted to the Staff, Parents and pupils for their unwavering support and hard work throughout the year.