

## **Governors' Annual Report**

The Annual Report by the Board of Governors for the  
School Year (31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023)

**2022-2023**

### **ENNISKILLEN MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Motivating – Supporting – Educating**

**‘Together Everyone Achieves More’**

**As part of the ‘Investors in People’ process the school embedded a Parent Charter some years ago – a copy of which is on display, on the website and circulated with induction literature. The aim of this report is to highlight how we have once again endeavoured to endorse the values contained within our Charter.**

#### **Names and categories of the Board of Governors:**

Representing Education Authority:	Mr S Balmer (Chairman), Mrs M Hicks
Representing Parents:	Mr A Elliott
Representing Teachers:	Mrs A Keys
Representing Transferors:	Mr N Johnston (Vice Chairman), Mr A Murray Mr T Whittaker, Mr E Wilson
Honorary Secretary:	Mr W Glass

#### **The functions of the Board of Governors:**

- ◇ Appointing of teaching and non-teaching staff
- ◇ Determining criteria to be applied in the admission of pupils
- ◇ Reviewing and maintaining a statement of school policies
- ◇ Responsibility for the maintenance of the school building
- ◇ Managing the financial resources delegated under Local Management of Schools
- ◇ Expressing the community’s interest and promoting mutual understanding

**To access the full report, go to [www.enniskillenmodel.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk](http://www.enniskillenmodel.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk)  
(On the Home page and in the Governors section)**

For the second year running since COVID-19, the school was able to operate for the entire year without any enforced closures.

## School Organisation: Members of Teaching Staff – September 2022

Principal:	Mr W Glass
Vice Principal (P6):	Mrs A Keys
Head of Key Stage One (P4):	Mrs R Coulson
Head of Foundation Stage (P1):	Mrs J Murray
P1:	Mrs N McClure
P2:	Mrs S Griffith
P2:	Mr R Breen
P3:	Mrs A Johnston
P3:	Mr M Balmer
P4:	Mrs M McCartney
P5:	Mrs K McGarry/Mr G Robson
P5:	Mrs T Clifford
P6:	Mrs J Smith
P7:	Miss A Williamson
P7:	Mr A Rainey
Literacy Support:	Mrs J Nelson
Language Centre P1:	Miss R King/Mrs K McGarry
Language Centre P2 and P3:	Mrs P Hurst

Miss V Walker helped with Literacy support (Engage teacher) as well as organising/promoting the school's Library and Information Literacy Skills programme. Funding for the Engage programme was ended by the Department of Education in April but the support was maintained in school until June.

The school enlisted the services of a play therapist but again due to imposed funding cuts (Healthy Happy Minds Project), this service ended in June.

**Staff movements:** Mrs K McGarry moved into the Language Centre following the retirement of Miss R King. Mr G Robson took over in P5 where Mrs McGarry had been teaching. Mrs L Courtney extended her career break for a second time and Mrs T Clifford continued to fill her position. Mrs Clifford became a permanent employee.

All teaching and non-teaching staff continued to give a very high level of support to the school and often despite ongoing Industrial Action. Many volunteered for the third year to help with summer clubs, for example.

**Enrolment:** September 2022: 440 (figures include the Language Centre – 20 pupils); Primary 1 - 60 pupils

### **The school terms and closures for the 2022/2023 year were:**

**Term 1:** 31<sup>st</sup> August – 21<sup>st</sup> December; 31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November (Half Term); 21<sup>st</sup> December (Christmas Holiday)

**Term 2:** 5<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March; 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February (Half Term); 17<sup>th</sup> March; 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Holiday)

**Term 3:** 17<sup>th</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> June; 1<sup>st</sup> May (Bank Holiday); 29<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday); 29<sup>th</sup> June (Summer Holiday)

Staff Development Days: 4<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Approved exceptional closures also occurred to mark the Queen's passing (19<sup>th</sup> September) and the King's Coronation (8<sup>th</sup> May).

Industrial Action resulted in two closures (one day and another half day) although some staff elected not to strike.

The Electoral Office also used the premises to facilitate an Election in May.

For the third year running, the school extended its opening times and offered several Summer Club days in July. The attendance of pupils from this school was high. A wide variety of activities was organised by teaching and non-teaching staff.

### **Charity events:**

Food Bank collections for 'The Pantry' and 'St. Vincent de Paul' were organised to coincide with our Harvest Assemblies – a good response from parents was noted. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was also supported through Christmas Show donations and selling of recordings. The Royal British Legion was supported in November through the sale of poppies. A whole school fundraiser in the spring was organised for the Syria/Turkey Earthquake Appeal. To mark the second anniversary of Shirley Rowland's passing (former employee), a hugely successful 5K Race was organised by the P.T.A. in September and this helped support her family's designated charity, 'Fermanagh Bright Starz'. A local charity Inclusion Walk was attended by a large group of children from different classes and Comic Relief charities were supported through a 'Red' focus themed day in school. The clothing bank in the school car park was well utilised and generated some income for the N. Ireland Cancer Fund for Children.

### **Class Structure - 1st September 2022:**

P1 McClure **30**  
P2 Breen **31**  
P4 Coulson **27**  
P5 Clifford **30**  
P7 Rainey **29**  
L.C. Hurst **10**

P1 Murray **30**  
P3 Balmer **33**  
P4 McCartney **28**  
P6 Keys **30**  
P7 Williamson **29**

P2 Griffith **31**  
P3 Johnston **32**  
P5 McGarry/Robson **30**  
P6 Smith **30**  
L.C. King/McGarry **10**

**Attendance** for the year 2022-2023 (P1 - P7): **94%**. The school's attendance rate continued to improve on more recent years and action resulted following input from the school's Educational Welfare Officer. A monthly track was kept on attendance figures and persistent late arrivals were monitored.

The Induction/'Settling in' programme for the new intake was modified with effective home - school links being seen as a major priority in settling children into school. A variety of themed events was organised e.g. Play Mornings. The P1 staff also organised many 'Play and Learn' afternoons and these were well attended by many pre-school children and parents.

A change in pre-school policy in the area caused much controversy and has led to a very discriminatory situation for this school moving forward, notably being one of a very few primary schools that do not have pre-school provision onsite. Despite much petition at various levels our voice remained unheard.

On-going and constructive links were maintained with Enniskillen Nursery School and the other pre-school centres – their support was much appreciated. Sadly, the Montessori closed its doors and the long and fruitful link with the staff there came to an end. Mrs Murray played a key role in developing the induction programme and received excellent co-operation from Mrs McClure and the classroom assistants.

## **School Finances:**

### **School Fund:**

Opening Balance: £5,379.00 Cr – September 2022; Balance Carried Forward: £670.00 Cr – August 2023. Figures were distorted a little this year as the School Fund account was used to lodge money from the ‘Love Here, Live Here’ grant (the school received £12,000 to improve the school grounds). Some invoices were subsequently paid out of this account.

The School Fund turnover includes staff contingency, parental contributions, receipts and payments for school visits, school photographs and miscellaneous items etc. This year again saw some additional income added – various grants the school secured from the Council, for example. One new initiative saw the provision of some complimentary Breakfast Mornings.

Mrs Thompson (School Secretary) plays an invaluable role in organising/monitoring financial transactions within the school. This coupled with the wide array of other tasks she completes has, once again, helped immensely with the successful running of the school. She was supported in the office by Mrs McCullagh (part-time secretary).

Mrs Thompson once again deserves special recognition for the additional tasks required following the persistent and time-consuming change imposed by the Education Authority

The school operates under a fully delegated status.

### **Budget Statement:**

Total Budget Share: £1,289,654 (this includes other self-generated income sources and allows for a deficit carried forward from the previous year – 2021/2022).

Again, expenditure exceeded income (allocated budget share and other generated sources) and therefore the school, in keeping with many others (almost half of all primary schools in N. Ireland), will carry a deficit into the next financial year. The budget has been very difficult to manage given the huge reduction in allocated funding and the situation would be much worse if no effort was made to supplement our income through fundraising. This school continues to be a victim of current Department of Education funding formula calculations and remains as the least funded school per pupil in all of Fermanagh and Tyrone – the variances in some instances are huge. Repeated complaints about this disparity have once again been unheard.

The Education Authority has again confirmed that the financial management of this school is sound/proactive and acknowledged that nothing further can/should be done to cut expenditure/costs. We are, for example, well below the N. Ireland pupil – teacher ratio and have many less staff than other comparative schools who find themselves in different contexts - often having fewer pupils but much higher funding streams. Reluctantly, a decision was made in June to review our expenditure on general classroom assistants to further cut costs.

Income includes rent from external users of the premises (notably Sport and Motor Home usage), After School Homework Club profit, Parent Teacher Association funds and an annual Language Centre allowance etc. Several parents also kindly gave sizeable contributions to school funds in June – these were deeply appreciated.

The Board notes the important contribution made by the Parent Teacher Association in providing funds/supporting charities and expresses its appreciation of the work carried out by the Committee throughout the year. The discos, sponsored slide and fun night proved to be hugely successful.

The time given by P.T.A. Committee members/other parents when helping at school events was greatly appreciated. Mrs Cheryl Clarke remained as Chairperson and was proactive in organising events. Consequently, the benefits of having such a supportive and proactive body are immense.

**Staff Development:** Despite industrial action, staff attended a wide range of in-service courses and participated in school-based support provided by members of staff and external bodies. Courses included additional SEND training (Special Needs and Disability provision), Sounds Write, Magenta Principles (developing thinking and promoting active learning) and ICT.

The school continued its profile regarding promoting Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying. As well as addressing scenarios through class topics, pupils and staff engaged with other related events such as Anti-Bullying Week. The school's policy in this area was refreshed following staff, parent (selected), governor and pupil consultation.

Several members of staff completed the PRSD process (Performance Review and Staff Development) which was allowed despite the restrictions imposed by Industrial Action. Other constructive and important initiatives such as peer observation had to be paused due to this action. Likewise, sanctions were imposed on the number of staff and other meetings a school is allowed to organise.

The school's Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection, Mrs Keys, briefed all the staff and governors about the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy (including new procedures and updated training) and facilitated online training. Parents were given a synopsis of our procedures and policies relating to this area were reviewed (following the more recent updates of the DE 2017/04 guidance, 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools'). A new Department of Education 'Safer Schools' App was promoted with parents (twice) but the uptake was generally very low.

A relatively new system operated by the school was embedded. This charts the level of vulnerability across all classes and included play therapy input as well as details about 'Operation Encompass' calls – these report incidents to school when the PSNI have been called to a home – allowing for closer monitoring of any potential impact on children. Training was delivered to key staff (Safeguarding Team) and governors.

NSPCC resources continued to be used by all classes to address sensitive issues relating to personal safety and mental health matters. Again, this approach was complemented by Action Mental Health and Scripture Union workshops which involved several year groups - these were well received.

**School Development Plan:** In June/August, the 2022/2023 plan was evaluated and the process of gathering some background information was initiated. Data was also scrutinised for pockets of performance/underperformance. A new transitional plan will evolve in the Autumn of 2023, following more recent Department of Education guidance (June 2023).

**Learning Support:** An action plan outlined the development of several key areas.

The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Nelson promoted the implementation of the Code of Practice and the review of provision is on-going in school. Further training was availed of in relation to SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) – notably that relating to the imminent introduction of PLPs (Personal Learning Plans)/previously referred to as EPs (Education Plans). A decision was made not to rush into these and to focus instead on actual face-to-face provision on the ground. Sadly, the volume of and ever-changing paperwork imposed by the Education Authority, coupled with a lack of external support makes things even more difficult to operate/sustain.

Several Education Authority outreach support teachers visited the school and worked with individual children, following advice from the Psychology Service. Educational Psychologist, Mrs R Giles, gave a very high level of support to the school – again exceeding expectation and helping with the excessive paperwork that now dominates this area.

Numerous children received support with Literacy. These children were normally withdrawn from class for different periods of time during the week although much class-based support also operated and was greatly enhanced by classroom assistant help. Support offered was for children experiencing moderate or specific learning difficulties and aimed to target both low and under achievement.

SEN intervention programmes were developed/extended this year. Following various screening approaches, assistants were re-deployed on occasions to provide follow up work with small groups of children – Infant Language Link, for example. Dynamo Maths was used as a screening approach for many children and various follow-up and tailored programmes evolved. A Motor Skills group also operated and many children benefited from well-targeted support from Mrs Livingstone. These children would normally sit on a lengthy waiting list for external support.

Numerous classroom assistants and placement students were deployed to work specifically with individuals or groups of children (P1 to P7). Their help has, once again, proved to be invaluable. Miss Walker and Mrs Nelson continued with a programme called ENGAGE which warranted some additional funding from the Department of Education until April 2023 when the funding was stopped (school continued the support until June) – this enabled staff to target more pupils who are presenting with very specific literacy need and often do not qualify for/avail of external support from the Education Authority.

Mrs Griffith and Mrs Smith continued to provide invaluable support for staff when catering for some 70 Newcomer pupils (when English is a second language) and in a small number of instances the service of interpreters was availed of. The number of Newcomer pupils attending the school remained static and the staff embraced the challenge of accommodating/educating these children with huge improvements noted – in the English language, socially, emotionally and academically.

**Assessment:** The school aims to deliver the N. Ireland Curriculum and thereby develop the basic skills of literacy and numeracy within a broad and balanced curriculum. Individual needs are assessed and through differentiated teaching and learning support it is the aim of staff to address these needs.

An internal system of testing (and screening of test results) continued to operate from P1 to P7 and outcomes were analysed using ICT packages. The P1 and P2 classes reinstated their baseline assessments in accordance with pre-Covid years. The testing of key words/spelling in all classes was also standardised. Literacy (PTE) and Numeracy (PTM) standardised tests were conducted with some P3 children and all P4 to P7 children. Some gains were noted from the previous year's results and addressing dips remains central to the School Development Planning process.

The P7 classes engaged in a new pilot called Adaptive Assessments. This was being trialled by a Curriculum body (CEA) to help get a better overview of children's performances in P7. The teachers found the system easy to operate and much preferred it to the old system where they were expected to assign end of key stage levels.

With the helpful co-operation of the P6 and P7 staff and the local post-primary schools, the school facilitated the transfer of pupils to various post primary schools. The academic components of all records for P7 pupils were forwarded to the relevant post primary schools along with a selection of pastoral information. Some visits by year 8 staff from several of the local post primary schools were also facilitated and Enniskillen Royal Grammar School organised a mathematical themed workshop in June for all our P7 children.

A full transition process operated. This school did use the services of Scripture Union Northern Ireland to facilitate the 'It's Your Move' programme with both P7 classes. The FIND Centre, Enniskillen also provided workshops at the end of the year.

All parents were engaged in parent discussions. Parents continued to show a high level of support for their children's learning with attendance at both sets of parent meetings being very high.

Introductory meetings for parents were reinstated in September. These provided an invaluable initial contact for parents and teachers in addressing pastoral and curricular matters.

The use of Google Classroom throughout the school also helped enhance the links between school and home and provided a lovely snapshot of what is covered during a school year. Increased effort was made to ensure that all classes operated the forum frequently and methodically.

**The Curriculum:** Literacy and Numeracy continued to take priority on the School Development Plan and internal/external staff development was organised (on occasions through webinars etc.)

**Literacy:** An action plan outlined the development of several key areas.

Various Reading Focus events were promoted and these included a close link with Enniskillen Town Library and Waterstones Bookshop, for example.

Weekly planning was tweaked to ensure that many areas of Language and Literacy were being covered in a more systematic way.

**Numeracy:** An action plan outlined the development of several key areas.

'Maths Week Ireland' was promoted in October and various other initiatives took place throughout the year – paired mathematics in P2 and P5 and a transition workshop with P7 (local grammar school link), for example.

Weekly planning was tweaked to highlight in more detail the Mathematics and Numeracy topics being covered.

**Information and Communication Technology:** This area continued to be well profiled. An action plan outlined the development of several key areas and some in class support/staff development was organised as well as developing teacher skills in the use of new equipment e.g. Surface Pros. The ever-changing hardware specifications and depletion of the school's stock has continued to create an air of uncertainty moving forward. Teachers were well supported by C2K personnel and school co-ordinators who facilitated some onsite training opportunities.

Mrs Clifford was selected to take part in a Closer2 project which involved using ICT to initiate some exchange lessons with pupils from St. Patrick's P.S., Mullanaskea. The link proved to be very productive.

### **Other areas to complement the curriculum:**

An Education Authority organised 'Musical Pathways to Learning' programme operated in the P4 and P7 classes – this entailed weekly visits from a music specialist to deliver lessons in each classroom. School funded the cost of this programme.

Various children availed of EA Music Peripatetic support for woodwind and strings and their skills were harnessed further when a school Orchestra performed at several events. The development of the Orchestra was increased considerably by Mrs Johnston (Co-ordinator) in collaboration with the Music Peripatetic staff. The P6 pupils were invited to attend an Ulster Orchestra performance in the Lakeland Forum.

Likewise, the profile of Music in the school was heightened and many children took part in various choir events, a Peace Proms Concert in the SSE Arena, Belfast, Opera Workshops in the Ardhowen Theatre and Choral Workshops by Fermanagh Choral Society were hosted by this school.

Last Christmas the P4 children excelled themselves with their Christmas performance, 'I'm Gonna Shine' which was recorded for parents. The P1 and P2 sing-a-longs at Christmas were also well received. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experiences and each retiring collection for the RNLI was generous.

For the Leavers' Assembly the P7 children performed 'Olivia' to a high standard for their parents and relatives. This event was also used as our annual prize giving and celebration of success.

School assemblies were consistent and much support was given to the school from Scripture Union and various Bible clubs, for example. The P6 and P7 children also took part in a 'Life Exhibition' organised by Bible Educational Services.

A huge effort was made by Miss Williamson and Mrs McCartney to engage all classes in the Fermanagh Feis and Fermanagh and County Show – art, craft, Literacy etc. Much acknowledgement of pupils' work featured.

The school continued with its healthy initiatives and these were complemented by an increased profile/participation in physical exercise and general well-being. Mrs Clifford (Co-ordinator) again profiled the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign.

Young Enterprise programmes featured and many classes availed of well-targeted lessons. The P7 sale in March was a highlight and the entrepreneurial skills of the P7 children helped raise funds for various trips in P7.

Mrs Murray (P.E. co-ordinator) did much throughout the year to heighten the profile of Physical Education and Games. Sports Day in June was glorious and all events ran very smoothly thanks to very meticulous co-ordination by Mrs Murray, Mrs McGarry and Mr Rainey. Various tutors/coaches were used to promote the P.E. and Games programmes and much cognisance was taken of a new Eti document, reflecting on their evaluation of P.E. and Games in primary schools. Planning was considerably reworked and teacher engagement was promoted. The timetabling for P.E. was refined and regular participation by all children was noted.

A full programme of activities operated for all classes and featured much breadth – Scottish Dancing, Rugby, Gaelic etc. P4 to P7 classes availed of swimming and the cost of lessons was covered by school. Several children took part in the Ulster Championships in Bangor and one P7 girl went on to qualify for the All-Ireland final in Dublin where she performed very well. The Multi-Sports initiative by Mr Belshaw (coach) excelled and the provision was extended into various holiday periods – summer clubs etc. Various teams competed in local and provincial tournaments across a range of sports, achieving much success.

A Cycling Proficiency scheme was successfully completed in P7 and the focus was complemented earlier in the year by encouraging participation in 'Bike to School' and 'The Big Pedal' themed events. Mrs McGarry (Co-ordinator) kept the momentum going with these events and promoted whole school engagement.

Mrs McClure and Mrs McGarry (World Around Us Co-ordinators) also highlighted many 'Environmental/Green themed' events (following training) and the children took part in a variety of related tasks to complement their topics. The establishment of Eco Gardens was completed and the outdoor space was enhanced greatly.



Older pupils took part in various STEM (Science and Technology) challenges and one team went on to compete in the N. Ireland final (where they came second).

Other significant events this year included a closer link with Oakwood Bushcraft Centre – many classes engaged in lots of outdoor themed activities in school or at the Centre itself. The P3 Pirate and Castle themed days also proved to be very innovative.

The staff in Enniskillen Museum were well utilised and several trips and school-based talks greatly enhanced the curriculum.

To complement topics teachers were able to arrange visits to a variety of venues in Fermanagh and elsewhere in the province. The P6 and P7 trips to Magilligan and Chester went ahead and the experiences were enjoyed by all.

Many visitors came to the school. The Banyan, West Midlands and Konflux Theatres performed for the children and. Likewise, the P7s repeated their Christmas evening visit to the Ardhowen Theatre.

### **School in the Community:**

Several very high-profile events were organised during the year. To mark the Queen's passing and the King's accession to the throne, special focused events featured. This included some representation from school as part of the King's visit to Enniskillen in May.

Mrs McCartney worked alongside the Education Authority and her counterpart in St. Patrick's P.S. to keep the Shared Education programme running despite a huge depletion in funding. Many constructive links did feature.

First Holy Communion (P4) classes were organised in the school by Mrs McCartney and another member of staff accompanied a group of P7 children to a local school to prepare for their Confirmation. With the helpful co-operation of the parish priest, parents and staff in local schools, the preparatory lessons were delivered in accordance with the guidelines.

The school photographer visited in February and this included whole class photographs of the P1 and P7 classes as well as the creation of a mural depicting all the children in the school in 2022/2023 – created to mark the school's official opening.

The School Health Service gave much support throughout the year. Many staff were trained in aspects of First Aid and received refresher training in conditions such as diabetes, nut allergies and epilepsy. The P1 children were screened and all P1 to P7 children were offered the Influenza Vaccination during a morning's clinic.

The Kitchen staff continued to provide an array of lunches for pupils and staff and some themed activities were noted. The school's Breakfast Mornings were also well supported by the staff.

To celebrate Chinese New Year and the school's approach to welcoming diversity, several Mandarin tutors organised a themed afternoon for P4 to P7 children. The P7 children availed of Mandarin lessons for a large part of the year. All these events were enjoyed by all.

Various other partnerships were also to the fore. The Play links with the South West College were well received, for example.

Throughout the past year the school hosted several students/parents on work experience and placement for training. In this way the Model continues to perform the role allocated to the Model Schools when they were first established - in the training of young people to become teachers and carers.

This Governors' Report relates specifically to the last school year (2022-2023) and attempts to cover most areas of school life in what proved to be a more 'normal' year in comparison to the two years prior to this. Clarification can be sought on any of the above points by contacting Mr Glass. Apologies if any key events/names have been omitted from the report or if parts are repetitive/contain errors – this was not intentional. Thank you for your continued support of the school.