

Clounagh Junior High School



Annual Report of the Board of Governors

School Year
2022-23

1. Board of Governors

Name	Representing	Term of Office
Dr D Blevins (Chair)	Board	2018-2024*
Mr A Hatch	Board	2018-2024*
Mr G Speers	Board	2018-2024*
Mr J Todd	Board	2018-2024*
Mr M Allen	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs P Hutchinson	Transferors	2021-2024*
Mrs H Malcolmson	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs J Whittle	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs H Burke (Vice-Chair)	Parents	2018-2024*
Mr M Clayton	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs L Cosgrove	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs M Giffin	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs K Beggs	Teachers	2018-2024*
Mrs J Bled	Teachers	2018-2024*
Mr W R Hill	Principal / Secretary	2018 – 31 August 2023
Mr P H Elliott	Principal / Secretary	1 September 2023 onwards

*DE Circular 2023/06 (issued 28 April 2023) stated that “the most recent reconstitution period for Boards of Governors of controlled and maintained schools was expected to have run to 2023. This was previously rescheduled from 2022 as a consequence of the pressures and disruption placed on schools and managing authorities by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Department is aware of the administrative impact that a reconstitution will have on schools, and, in light of the current industrial action, the next reconstitution for controlled and maintained schools has been rescheduled to launch in December 2023 with a reconstitution date of June 2024. The current reconstitution period will therefore be 2018 to 2024.”

2. Financial Statement

Budget		Expenditure	
Allocation 1 April 2022	£3,203,319	Salaries – Teaching	£2,476,804
Carry Over from 2021-22	£639,787	Salaries – Non-Teaching	£326,238
Other Funding	£109,266	Staff – Other Costs	£1,717
		Premises, Fixed Plant and Grounds	£261,127
		Operating Costs	£160,433
		Capital Purchases (Equipment)	£58,840
		Non-Capital Purchases	£52,828
		Surplus/Deficit Carried Forward	£614,385
Total	£3,952,372	Total	£3,952,372

3. Links with the Community

The school operates an 'Open Door' policy, and parents are welcome to school at any time. In addition, the school communicates with parents through letters, leaflets, pupil diary, phone calls, texting service, counselling and information meetings, and Year 8 Induction Day. As part of the Learning for Life and Work Programme, representatives from the business community organise training days for pupils. The school works closely with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland, Learn to Earn, Project Business and the Reach Mentoring Team.

The school has very close links with all schools in the area and actively promotes cross-phase liaison meetings. The school benefits from the Principal's membership of the Post-Primary Principals' Association and the Vice-Principals Forum. Local employers facilitate work experience for pupils from the Learning Support Centre at Key Stage 4. The school's Carol Service took place in St Mark's Church, Portadown, in December 2022. Residents from nearby care homes and primary schools attended a matinee performance of the school production in February 2023.

The school engages with community agencies and bodies such as YMCA, MENCAP, Love for Life, Local Clergy, PSNI, NIFRS, Aspire, Freedom Acts, Beam Creative Workshops, Nutrition Services, NI Mood Matters, Sentinus, Start 360, Royal British Legion and Teenage Cancer Trust.

4. Security of the Pupils, Staff and Premises.

At all times the security of pupils and staff is paramount and a number of measures are taken to ensure this. These include the installation of a secure Automated Front Door Security System by Access Systems Ireland, a modern fire alarm system, close circuit television, supervision of pupils and a visitor's sign-in protocol. All staff and visitors wear lanyards displaying identification cards. Procedures are in place for the emergency evacuation of the building. The caretaker secures the building each evening and activates the monitored intruder alarm system. Liaison with the PSNI through the Craigavon Area Learning Community enables support to be received on relevant security matters.

A Safeguarding Team is in place at Clounagh Junior High School. The Designated Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mr James Todd. The Designated Teacher for Safeguarding is Mrs Heather McDowell (Vice-Principal, Pastoral) and the Deputy Designated Teachers for Safeguarding are Mrs Kathryn Patterson (Vice-Principal, Curriculum) and Mrs Jennifer Bled (Head of Learning Support Centre). Mrs McDowell led Safeguarding training for all members of staff (teaching and non-teaching) and on arrival in school throughout the year for all new members of staff. All parents received a Safeguarding Information Leaflet which included procedures for reporting. Assemblies were held to inform all pupils about Safeguarding and the procedures for reporting and support, both inside and outside School. Safeguarding messages were also promoted actively through a Learning for Life and Work curricular programme and external agencies. Staff Photographs are on display throughout the school to enable pupils to access staff support, and Form Room Noticeboards inform pupils of support organisations outside school.

5. Arrangements for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabled Pupils.

In the mainstream at Clounagh, pupils who have learning difficulties are placed in a class which has a small number of pupils. The pupils may remain in this class throughout their 3 years (the curriculum is suitably differentiated to meet individual needs) or they may move into another band depending upon their progress. Baseline Assessment tests in Literacy, Numeracy eg. Reading, Spelling and Mental Arithmetic given to all Year 8 pupils during their first month, advise staff of those pupils who have difficulties in particular areas and facilitate planning for differentiated teaching and remediation. The school uses a range of standardised tests, the most recent being the GL CAT-4 diagnostic test with results analysed for the benefit of the pupil, parent and teacher. Remediation programmes include the Better Reading Partnership Programme and withdrawal groups for literacy and numeracy. A further series of Standardised Tests are given to pupils during Year 9 and Year 10. These tests advise staff of pupil progression and of the possible need of additional help for pupils with continuing difficulties.

Close liaison with parents ensures that pupils are given the most suitable provision for their individual needs. Parents' and pupils' views are sought as part of the IEP target-setting process. In line with the Code of Practice, the school operates a 3 Stage Plan with regard to its children who are experiencing learning and/or behavioural difficulties.

Pupils with physical disabilities have access to all curriculum areas. Entrances and exits are ramped and there is an 8-person key-operated lift. The school also has a fully equipped accessible toilet. PE facilities also include accessible toileting and changing facilities. The main school has full-time Special Educational Needs General Assistants.

The Learning Support Centre meets the needs of statemented pupils with moderate learning difficulties. The curriculum is taught at a level and pace suited to each individual pupil's needs and abilities and in a relevant and motivating manner, with the support of full-time Special Educational Needs General Assistants.

6. Curriculum

During 2022-23 the compulsory subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum were taught to all our pupils. The Key Stage 3 Learning Areas are:

- The Arts (Art & Design, Music, Drama)
- English (including Media Education)
- Environment & Society (Geography, History)
- Learning for Life & Work (Personal Development, Local & Global Citizenship, Education for Employability, Home Economics)
- Mathematics (including Financial Capability)
- Modern Languages (French, Spanish)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science and Technology (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Technology & Design)

The services of a French Assistant were used. Additional curriculum initiatives also facilitated the provisions for Special Educational Needs, Under-Achievement and Supporting Newcomer Needs.

Key Stage 4 pupils in the Learning Support Centre completed the following qualifications:

- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills Application of Number
- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills in Communication
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills Adult Numeracy
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills Adult Literacy
- CCEA Occupational Studies Business & Services (Level 1&2)
- OCN Prince's trust Extended Certificate (Level 1 and 2)

Extra-Curricular Activities included Rugby, Soccer, Hockey, Netball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Athletics, Swimming, Outdoor Pursuits, Cross-Country Running, Computer Club, Art Club, Film Club, Eco Club, Drama Club, Scripture Union, Journalism Club, Homework Club, Technology Club, Cookery Club, Chess Club and School Choir, Orchestra together with a varied programme of Music Tuition.

7. Pastoral Care

All staff have responsibility for promoting and implementing the pastoral care programme. Through this we care for the welfare of our pupils and create a sense of belonging, developing an atmosphere of mutual respect. Teachers deliver a revised personal development programme which allows a fair and equitable exchange of views, ideas and attitudes in an atmosphere of trust. Our Behaviour Management Policy creates a sense of justice and fair play. The Year Heads along with the Vice-Principals take responsibility for the home school liaison, monitoring of pupil progress and addressing pupil pastoral needs. A number of external agencies supported the school, including the Educational Welfare Officer, Social Services, PSNI, Behaviour Support Team, Educational Psychologists, School Health Team, Family Works Counselling Service, Reach Mentoring, Local Clergy and the agencies which delivered aspects of the Personal Development Curriculum.

Form Teachers take responsibility for monitoring pupil attendance and report regularly to Year Heads and the Attendance Co-ordinator. The Attendance Co-ordinator and a Vice-Principal liaised with parents and the Educational Welfare Officer as required. The Educational Welfare Officer worked closely with staff and pupils to assist the promotion of good attendance. Attendance for the 2022/23 year was 89.2%.

Pastoral developments this year included a review of the Behaviour Management Policy, ICT Policy, E-Safety Policy and the further development of Pupil Voice. The Pastoral Team has also been working to embed a nurturing approach with the Pastoral Team being trained in Trauma Informed Practice and the use of BOXALL reports. The continued development of the parent strand of Induction Day and the further development of social media training remain a priority.

8. Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance

Pupils follow the NI Revised Curriculum Employability Programme in Years 8, 9 and 10. In addition, pupils are informed of potential subject-related careers within each learning area. Age-appropriate careers education, information, advice and guidance is delivered in Year 10 providing students with opportunities to research various career pathways to assist them in GCSE subject choice. This is supported by presentations by various agencies and interviews with a Careers Adviser from The Department of Economy and programmes provided by Young Enterprise NI. Senior pupils in the Learning Support Centre who attend Occupational Studies classes at the Southern Regional College also benefit from a close working relationship with the Careers Adviser.

9. Educational Achievements

Key Stage 4 pupils in the Learning Support Centre attained the following qualifications:

Qualification	Level	Number of pupils
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Numeracy	Entry Level 1	1
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Numeracy	Entry Level 3	5
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 1	1
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 2	1
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 3	4
Prince’s Trust Extended Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Skills	Level 2	6
CCEA Occupational Studies Business & Services	Level 2	6
OCN Certificate in Essential Skills - Communication	Level 1	1
OCN Certificate in Essential Skills – Application of Number	Level 1	1

10. Destination of Leavers

In June 2023 arrangements for the transfer of Year 10 pupils were finalised as follows:

80	Portadown College
141	Craigavon Senior High School
4	Other schools
225	Total

11. Percentage Attendance Rate for 2022-23

89.2%
