

St. Joseph's

Carryduff



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
26th ANNUAL REPORT
TO PARENTS

November 2017

Board of Governors of St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to present this 26th Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Governors of St Joseph's Primary School. The report will give you an overview of the work of the school during the past year and an account of how the Board of Governors, school management and staff have carried out their responsibilities.

Our pupils continue to develop academically to the best of their ability, confident in their relationships with others and fully aware that they have a valued contribution to make, not only to their school and family, but also to the parish community and society.

On reading this report you will discover that our school is very much intertwined with the community as a whole. This is achieved through fostering links with other primary and post primary schools, outside agencies and involvement in community projects.

The Board of Governors wish to extend their sincere thanks to all the staff, both teaching and ancillary, for their continued commitment, loyalty and tireless efforts in providing our pupils with the best possible education in a positive, happy and secure environment.

None of the above could have been achieved without the commitment and ongoing support of the parents and the wider community. It is through working together in partnership that enables our school community to thrive and develop.

In accordance with our school motto we continue to 'Learn, play and pray together'.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mrs P Neeson
Chairperson`

Board of Governors

Membership of the Board of Governors

2015-2020

Mrs P Neeson	Trustee (Chairperson)
Mrs M Hanna	EA (Vice-Chairperson)
Rev C. McGrath	Trustee
Mr M McConkey	Elected Parent
Mrs C Tunney	Trustee
Mrs M Doherty	EA
Mr M Dowling	DE
Mr E Taggart	Trustee
Mrs M Early	Teacher Governor
Mr D Donnelly	School Principal

The full Board of Governors met on three occasions to discuss many aspects of school life and to hear the Principal's report on the day-to-day management of the school. In addition, sub committees of the Board of Governors met on a number of other occasions to discuss specific issues.

Issues such as the school curriculum, staffing, accommodation, health and safety, enrolment, new initiatives, administration and pastoral care have been dealt with. The varied professional expertise within the Board of Governors has been most useful in achieving targets to be met within the governing body's wide remit.

The Board of Governors has various Sub Committees as follows, Finance, Admissions, Special Education, Curriculum, Appointments and Child Protection and Safeguarding. These committees met as necessary to deal with issues pertaining to their particular brief.

MISSION STATEMENT

In St Joseph's a culture of achievement, improvement and ambition exists with the clear expectation that all pupils can and will achieve to the very best of their ability.

We aim to provide an inclusive, caring and safe environment in which all children can grow in self-esteem, independence and confidence. Our care for the children enables their holistic development; spiritually, physically, intellectually, morally, emotionally and socially.

Integral to this is the recognition of the self-worth and value of every child, the fostering of the key values of Catholic education and the promotion of mutual understanding and respect for others.

In order to accomplish this, we seek to create a learning community where children, parents, staff and governors demonstrate a commitment to achieving high standards, mutual care and support of each other.



AIMS

In our school we aim to develop for our children:

- An awareness of their unique talents, skills, abilities and the confidence to attain their full potential through a deeper understanding of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- A love of lifelong learning, whereby children are motivated by the joy of developing their knowledge and skills.
- Independence; an active engagement in and ownership of their learning and involvement in discussions and decisions on school life.
- A lively and enquiring mind, the ability to question, make connections in their learning, show initiative, embrace new challenges and take informed decisions.
- A respect for the school community which develops self-discipline, courtesy, empathy and tolerance fostering an appreciation of the achievements and aspirations of others
- An inclusive ethos which builds a deeper understanding and respect of physical, cultural and racial differences within the school community and the wider world.
- An awareness of responsibilities for the environment and how our actions impact upon it.
- An understanding of the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.
- An effective partnership and good relationships with parents and the wider community.

PUPILS

Enrolment – September 2016

Enrolment including Nursery pupils

Year 1	30 30	Year 5	30 30
Year 1 Total	60	Year 5 Total	60
Year 2	30 30	Year 6	30 30
Year 2 Total	60	Year 6 Total	60
Year 3	30 31	Year 7	30 29
Year 3 Total	61	Year 7 Total	59
Year 4	32 31	Nursery	30 30
Year 4 Total	63	Year N Total	60
		Grand Total	483

We extended a warm welcome to 60 new pupils who joined us in September 2016.

The attendance for 2016/2017 was 97.6%. The pupils are to be congratulated on achieving such a high level of attendance.

Transfers to Post Primary Education 2016-2017

The Table below shows the Post Primary schools to which the Primary Seven children transferred in **September 2017**.

Destination	
Our Lady & St. Patricks College	20
Aquinas Grammar School	4
Assumption Grammar	19
St. Colman's High & Sixth Form College	2
St. Patrick's Grammar School	6
Victoria College	1
Lagan College	2
Royal Belfast Academical Institution	1
Methodist College	2
Campbell College	1
St Kevin's College	1
	59

End of Key Stage Assessment Data

2016/2017

<u>End of Key Stage One</u> June 2017	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Using Mathematics</i>
Percentage of pupils attaining Level 2 or above	98.3 %	98.3 %
<u>End of Key Stage Two</u> June 2017	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Using Mathematics</i>
Percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or above	98.3 %	96.7 %

Catholic Ethos

As a staff we began the 2016/17 school year by taking a day to look at our 'Mission Statement'. We examined the values that were important to us as and the impact they have on our pupils. This mission statement can be viewed on the school website. Each new term in 2016/17 was celebrated with a School Mass. These Masses were led by different year groups throughout the school year.

Each year group led various assemblies throughout the year, this included a Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving in the Church led by the Primary Three children and assemblies celebrating St Patrick, St Brigid and Catholic Schools' Week.

A new religious programme 'Grow in Love' was introduced to the Primary Three and Primary Four children. Our Primary Three and Four teachers attended a course in the first term on the delivery of this programme. Our Religious Education Co-ordinator was invited to deliver these courses for the teachers in Northern Ireland.

The pupils from St Joseph's were awarded second place in the Down and Connor Art and Media Competition. The school was given the challenge to design an art piece to reflect the ethos of our school. Three pupils attended an award ceremony in January to receive their prize of £750.00 from Bishop Noel Treanor.

On Wednesday 1st February the school celebrated Grandparents' Day. The Primary 6 classes led a special Mass in recognition of all grandparents. After Mass, our grandparents enjoyed refreshments provided by P6 classes. They were also invited to come into the classes to share stories about their school days.

The Primary Seven children took part in a retreat on Thursday 11th May. This was jointly led by Fr Conor and Our Religious Education Co-ordinator. Music was provided by the talented group 'Saffyre.' The day involved looking at the choices the children will make in the future. The pupils participated with enthusiasm in all discussions and thoroughly enjoyed their time with Saffyre.

The Primary Seven 'Leavers' Mass' took place on Tuesday 27th June. This marked the end of the Primary Seven's time in St Joseph's. All pupils attended the End of Year School Mass on Thursday 29th June to thank God and to celebrate another successful year in St. Joseph's. We would like to express our thanks as a school community to the support given to us by our priests throughout the year 2016/2017.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Thursday 9th February. Bishop Noel Treanor confirmed the Primary Seven children of the parish.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Thursday 9th March.

First Holy Communion took place on Saturday 6th May. Meticulous planning by the class teachers ensured the children were thoroughly prepared for their sacraments. Our Music Co-ordinator led the music for every sacrament. The school choir attended the First Holy Communion to lead us in a beautiful ceremony.

Charities

Once again St Joseph's pupils put a tremendous effort into fundraising for charity throughout the year.

During Advent all pupils from Nursery to P7 contributed food items to make hampers for families in need. SVDP then distributed these to families in the parish.

A representative from Trócaire visited the school to launch the Lenten campaign which raised £3441.82.

A £200 donation for 'Reading for Refugees' was presented to Gary McKinney. The children worked tirelessly to help those who struggle to survive in the face of global warming.

Pastoral Care

As part of the ongoing Pastoral Care programme in St. Joseph's the following areas were further developed in 2016/17.

During the first term many of the teaching and support staff attended anaphylaxis and diabetes awareness updates. This involved an update on how to administer an adrenalin auto injector. One member of the First Aid Team successfully completed a one-day refresher course on Emergency First Aid at Work. Both Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers attended Child Protection Training courses.

'Safeguarding and Rules Week' gave the children advice and guidance about staying safe in school, at home, on the road and when using the internet. The children were also given practical instructions on what to do if confronted by a stranger. Representatives from the Brain Injury Trust joined us and made the children aware of how to keep our brain safe.

We marked Anti-Bullying Week – 'Together we are Stronger' with two special assemblies at KS1 and KS2. The teachers used an excellent range of resources provided by The Anti-Bullying Forum.

During the second term the P6 and P7 children visited the RADAR centre. They were taught how to make positive, safe choices while travelling, on the farm, while at the beach and when using the internet.

The Alter Ego production team performed a drama called "In the Net" for P1-P7 children. This production made the children aware of the potential dangers while using the internet.

Cancer Focus N.I. worked with every year group during the second term. Their focus was on living a healthy lifestyle through eating healthy foods, exercising and avoiding smoking.

The programme was as follows:

Nursery in Nursery Classroom- Bernard - Healthy Eating

Primary One - Genevieve -Farmyard

Primary Two - Genevieve – Starring

Primary Three- Fit Factor

Primary Four in School Hall - Food Detectives

Primary Six - Smokebusters Part A

Primary Seven - Smokebusters Part B

During the summer term, in preparation for our summer break, 'Keeping Healthy/Keeping Safe Week' reinforced the healthy living and staying safe messages we had been teaching about throughout the year. The timetable included visits from NSPCC, Childline, RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institute) and 'teacher led' presentations on healthy eating, concussion awareness and staying safe in the sun.

Educational Links

This was an active year for the Area Learning Community. A meeting was held with the Principal and Vice Principal of Gilnahirk to plan for the year ahead.

It was decided that the schools would focus on moderating standards and share practice in mathematics and UICT. Sharing good practice in problem solving and investigations was also of particular interest. Each school was keen to discuss methods of monitoring, evaluating and recording process.

Throughout the year the P4 and P6 class teachers met to share and discuss ideas. The Primary 4s shared good practice on using different UICT tasks. They compared tasks and gave examples of effective delivery. Ideas for breaking down the tasks into manageable steps were shared and colleagues also explored resources e.g. Beebot mats. Finally, they discussed the use of Fronter and how it can be used effectively in the Primary Four classroom.

The Primary 6s discussed use of UICT tasks and discussed how to achieve Level 3/Level 4. They explored linking ICT tasks with WAU topics and examined the crossover Maths/UICT tasks on the CCEA website.

Meetings also took place with colleagues from Carryduff and Lisnasharragh Primary Schools. The P3 teachers met to share examples of investigations and problem solving activities in Mathematics and Numeracy.

The Maths Co-ordinators from each school discussed arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the impact of teaching and learning and for collating evidence.

In January 2017 our Educational Links Co-ordinator and Literacy Co-ordinator delivered a presentation to the CCMS South and East Cluster Group. This involved presenting to Principals and Senior Leadership Teams in other schools outlining our processes for:

- Evaluating Teaching and Learning.
- Analysing of Assessment Data.
- Target Setting.
- Monitoring Arrangements and the provision of feedback to staff.

The school received positive feedback from those who attended the session.

We further expanded the links with local post-primary schools through projects in Literacy, Numeracy, STEM and the Confucius link. The Confucius link has provided opportunities for the children to learn Mandarin and to take the Confucius Mandarin assessment.

We have continued to develop further our links with Our Lady's and St Patrick's College Knock (OLSPCK). Our P5 classes worked with teachers and students from OLSPCK as part of the Flight topic. P5 teachers are glad to receive support from their post-primary colleagues and having access to the facilities at OLSPCK enhances the experience even further.

The Literacy link with OLSPCK has been beneficial in relation to the moderation of standards. Both schools wished to develop further the talking and listening element of Literacy.

We also have a STEM link with the school which has been very effective and children have had the opportunity to use the facilities at OLSPCK.

The World Around Us Co-ordinator attended a Cluster Group in West Belfast for STEM with teachers from St Oliver Plunkett, St Kevin's and St Teresa's Primary Schools. The theme was 'Playful Science', and many practical ideas were shared and discussed.

We also have a strong link with St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch. Through the Literacy link with St Colman's the children have had the opportunity to develop their talking and listening skills.

The children met with pupils from the other link schools for a fabulous 'Poetry Slam' in June. They presented their own poems and enjoyed listening to a range of poems on the theme of Friendship. This provided another opportunity for our pupils to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

The previous experience of working with St Colman's in Literacy has been beneficial and so it was decided to extend this to include a mathematics link.

St Joseph's hosted one of the St Colman's Mathematics teachers on a placement during which time she observed teaching in P6 and P7 and was particularly impressed by the methods used to differentiate the learning. The St Colman's teacher met with the teachers and viewed the pupils' workbooks.

It was interesting to note the different emphasis each school places on the need to record calculations. Teachers shared information about the various techniques and resources they use to support learning.

A number of staff members from St Joseph's have been invited to provide guidance and share good practice with other schools.

The 'Scholastic Reading Pro' Team provided training and guidance on the use of the Scholastic Reading Pro to two schools from Larne that are embarking on this programme.

The Mathematics Co-ordinator and World Around Us Co-ordinators provided guidance in Maths and World Around Us to colleagues from St Colmcille's, Ballymena.

The Foundation Stage Co-ordinator met with teachers from Dundrum and Tyrella Primary Schools to discuss play based learning. The teachers also had an opportunity to observe an indoor play lessons in P1 and P2 classes.

The Vice Principal gave a presentation to Stranmillis University PGCE students on the importance of WALTs and WILFs in our daily planning. She discussed how the clearly defined learning intentions shared with the children help them to understand what they are learning and highlights the steps they need to take to achieve what is being asked.

We continued to build on our close relationship with higher education institutions by hosting students from, St Mary's University College, Stranmillis University and Ulster University, Coleraine. We also hosted two students from St Patrick's College Drumcondra on the Cross Border Exchange Programme.

The School Council met with their fellow councillors from Carryduff PS and Lisnasharragh PS to share, discuss and compare ideas. The three schools undertook a joint trip to Parliament Buildings in Stormont.

Parents and Friends Association

2016/17 was an action packed year with traditional activities mixed with a few new ones. The year started off with a calendar favourite - the Halloween disco, which proved as popular and successful as in the past.

'Christmas Cracker Day' was in December and it was agreed with the school that the proceeds would be donated to the Francesca Campbell Family Appeal.

Next, a St Joseph's PFA account was set up on The Giving Machine, an online cashback website, to raise funds whilst Christmas shopping. A Christmas tuck shop on the half day rounded the year off.

In January, a great night was enjoyed by the grown-ups at our annual Quiz Night with our raffle generously supported by local businesses.

In April we held our first ever Spring Fair, our most ambitious project to date. Thankfully our hard work was rewarded with a profit of £2,010 - the most raised at any event so far. The entire school community enjoyed a fun day out and it was a real team effort between staff, pupils and parents.

The ever popular 'Mad Hair Day' took place in May. June was a busy month with the Summer Disco and half day tuck shop. DVDs of the P7 show were kindly produced by parents and the money raised added to PFA funds.

The PFA were also involved in a number of non-profit/charitable activities. As well as the Christmas Cracker Day, some of our members helped the Campbell Family Appeal bag pack at Tesco. Members also served refreshments after mass on two Sundays and after the First Holy Communion. In June, shoes donated by parents were collected, boxed and dropped off for the 'Sal's Shoes' collection.

Over £5000 was donated during the 2016/17 school year. This money was used to purchase a new play house for the nursery and new football nets. The remainder contributed towards the ongoing cost of replacing obsolete computers.

The 2016-17 team are proud of their achievements in terms of money raised as well as the increased sense of community within the school. Thanks to everyone on the 2016-17 PFA who gave so generously of their time. This could not have been achieved without the contribution of parents, pupils, staff, sponsors and the wider community.

Morning Club

The Morning Club operated each school day during 2016-17. It accommodates children from Nursery to P7 to facilitate those parents who have to leave early for work each morning. Average daily attendance is 100. The children play games, build models, use the computers and complete art and craft activities.

The morning club team are responsible for the daily running of the club, which begins at 8:00am each morning. Other members of staff assist in the Morning Club in the event of any absence or emergency and their co-operation is very much appreciated.

After School Provision 1 2 3 Club

The After School Club run by Mrs Michelle Scott also operated each day during 2016-2017 from 1.50pm to 5.00pm. A variety of indoor and outdoor play activities were provided for pupils as well as a homework club. A flexible approach is adopted whereby parents can arrange for their children to attend the club every day or on specific afternoons, thereby choosing times which suit their domestic routine. The after school club runs on every full school day. They also provide cover during the mid-term and summer weeks.

World Around Us

CCEA Progression Guidance: Advisory Group

The WAU Co-ordinator contributed to the CCEA Advisory Group which was tasked with providing provision guidance in Science and Technology. He attended 6 sessions during the autumn and winter terms. This new guidance, 'Science and Technology within The World Around Us' has recently been published.

Incentivising STEM Innovation Programme: Primary Science and Technology.

A member of the Primary 6 Teaching Team attended five sessions to develop practical and investigative STEM lessons. As part of this programme data loggers were purchased for the school.

St Colmcille's

World Around Us (WAU) Co-ordinator met with the principal of St Colmcilles' PS. The purpose of the meeting was to share examples of WAU planning .

Links with Sentinus

St Joseph's participated in a number of Sentinus programmes designed to promote STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Sentinus Smart Energy Programme

P6 investigated Solar Energy over three workshops with a Link Engineer from NIE. The children made a solar powered oven which they presented at a celebration day in University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

Tasty Science

P7 took part in the Tasty Science Project. The children investigated what fruits can be used to make jelly and made their own cheese. P7 also tested which fruit had the most Vitamin C and investigated how to create a battery using fruit. The P7 classes attended the Big Bang at University of Ulster, Jordanstown, to present their findings.

Medics in Schools

Two medical students from Queen's University Belfast visited both Primary 7 classes. The children learnt about the different systems of the body.

Formula One Challenge

Two teams represented the school at the Formula One Primary School Challenge. During the afterschool STEM club, children researched the science behind driving. They developed their own Formula One team, created a brand, image logo and designed their own mini Formula Car. 'Think Outside the Engine' won the 'Best Pit Display' award.

Primary Food Science

P6 participated in the Primary Food Science Project. They worked with two link Scientists from the Institute of Global Food Security at QUB.

The link scientists were parasitologists. The children investigated whether worms can make smart choices and presented their findings at the celebration in QUB.

Festival of Science

Primary 7 pupils attended a workshop in Stormont held as part of the Festival of Science. They were one of only four schools selected for the event organised by Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and the Department of the Economy.

Primary Science Teaching Trust Cluster Group

St Joseph's have been invited to participate in a cluster group with three other schools, St Teresa's PS, St Oliver Plunkett PS and St Kevin's PS. Members from the WAU team attended meetings for this cluster group. This will be an on-going project focusing on developing playful science within Foundation Stage.

Links with Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock

Primary 7 pupils visited the College in January to investigate the melting points of milk, white and dark chocolate, a link with their Fairtrade Topic. Two teachers from OLSPCK, made a subsequent visit to St Joseph's to evaluate the learning.

P5 took part in Flight School with OLSPCK. This is now in its third year and an integral part of the Flight topic in P5. Children from P5 attended a day in OLSPCK.

STEM Challenge and K-Nex Challenge-

P7 pupils attended the STEM and K-Nex Challenge in Mercy College Belfast.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

For the academic year 2016-17, the areas for development in PDMU were identified as:

- Developing and enhancing the role of the School Council
- Achieving Level One of the Rights Respecting School Award

September

St Joseph's Primary School registered for Rights Respecting Schools Award (UNICEF charity). The School Council Co-ordinator attended introductory training for Rights Respecting Schools (Part One)

October:

School Council members spoke to KS1 and KS2 children during assemblies about how to use the new school play equipment. We have recently bought new equipment and before we put it out to use, we thought it was important to hold an assembly to remind everyone how we should take care of all play equipment. At St Joseph's we aim to keep all our fun equipment in the best possible condition to enable our school to play and learn together at break and lunch time.

Congratulations to our new school council members. The children were voted into the School Council by their fellow P5 peers and after an intense round of voting they are now ready to embark on the journey ahead.

November:

St Joseph's School Council welcomed members of the Carryduff Regeneration Team to the school on Tuesday 22nd November 2016. The team discussed ideas with the School Council about their plans to develop the local area and open up a Greenway in Carryduff. The children had prepared excellent questions, and had plenty of ideas to share with the members of the Regeneration Team. They were impressed by the wonderful contributions put forward during the meeting.

The School Council prompted the Christmas Hamper appeal to encourage the school to help those in need this Christmas. The appeal was very successful.

December:

The Primary Sevens and the School Councillors took part in the tree lighting ceremony in Carryduff. They joined pupils from Carryduff Primary School and sang Christmas songs and carols to celebrate the event. It was a lovely, festive night and got us all in the mood for Christmas. Carryduff Regeneration Forum sent huge thanks to St. Joseph's PS for their contribution to the Choir and their help in celebrating Christmas in Carryduff.

January

The Rights Respecting School Co-ordinator attended Part Two of the training for Level One of Rights Respecting Schools which explored ways of developing an ethos of rights through rights based agreements. The training also examined practical ways to help schools meet the RRSA standards.

Later in January, a meeting was held with a link teacher from St Michael's Primary School. This led to a planning morning which both School Councils attended to review action plans, questionnaires and fundraising for resources.

February:

The School Council led an assembly on Safer Internet Day to help spread the importance of staying safe online.

March

The School Council met to learn about RRSA and completion of pupil RRSA questionnaires and fundraising for resources. A RRSA focus group was established to share ideas on how we can achieve our Record of Commitment.

The School Council also met with St Michael's Primary school to use school links to work together to try to achieve Recognition of Commitment for the RRSA award.

April

The School Council met with councillors from St. Michael's PS to share information about their roles and responsibilities as members of the School Council

May

The School Council held an assembly to introduce the children to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Each teacher was presented with a copy of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child to display in their classroom.

The Rights Respecting School Co-ordinator submitted an application for Recognition of Commitment (ROC) to UNICEF. He collated a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that the RRSA standards had been met.

June

During this month the school was awarded the first stage of UNICEF RRSA - Recognition of Commitment which shows we are committed to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

Assessment

All data from the GL Assessments (May 2016) NINAs and NILAs (October 2016) was reviewed by the Assessment Co-ordinator and the standardised scores converted into tables identifying the percentage of pupils in each stanine band. The data was used to calculate the 'Value Added Percentage' of St. Joseph's pupils compared with the national average. This data confirms that our school consistently performs above the national average in Literacy and Numeracy.

Each teacher received the relevant data for their pupils and then completed the 'Tracking & Improvement' document, identifying specific targets for the groups within their class.

Primary 4 and Primary 6 pupils undertook the CAT online assessments. Using the information generated from the CATS (Cognitive Ability Tests), spread sheets were created to compare these results with standardised scores in Maths and Literacy. The Principal, Co-ordinators and all staff continue to monitor and evaluate the work undertaken in Literacy and Numeracy.

KS2 staff contributed to the MER (Monitoring, Evaluation and Review) process in Maths. The main focus was to show the inclusion of differentiated activities in short term planning. Staff participated in the MER (Monitoring and Evaluation) process for Communication highlighting how they planned for differentiation.

In addition, one of the targets for the current Assessment Action Plan is to embed and reinforce current practice in pupil self-evaluation and pupils' assessment of their own work.

Teachers continue to encourage the pupils to evaluate their work using stampers and comments P4-P7. The Principal and Co-ordinators reviewed the implementation of self-evaluation during the MER sessions.

Special Needs

A request was made by the EA South Eastern Region to share the expertise we have at St Joseph's with three other primary schools. The SENCO provided support to colleagues from the other schools on how to develop more effective IEPs and the use of Learning Logs to record progress. Our colleagues were keen to learn about the rationale used in St Joseph's to decide who will be in receipt of Learning Support, the rationale we use to successfully discontinue children and the process of tracking pupil progress once they have been successfully discontinued from receiving learning support.

Our Classroom Assistant Training Programme for 2016-17 continued to take place the first Wednesday of each month. We had sessions on Dealing with DCD and Dealing with Anxiety in the Classroom led by the CIDs Team, (Children's Inter-Disciplinary Team). Sara O'Kane, our ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) Officer, delivered sessions on Dealing with ASD in the Playground and Transitioning tips for children with ASD. Our Classroom Assistants continue to be a very valuable part of our school community.

During this term nine children took part in our Reading Partnership Programme. This programme is delivered by our Classroom Assistants between 2pm and 2.45pm. It targets children who are finding it difficult to learn to read. Each child receives thirty 15 minute individual sessions and it continues to be very effective in improving reading ages and promoting a love of reading and books.

In January the SENCO completed the Annual Reviews for any child for who had a Statement of Special Education Need. This review ensures that each child has the necessary support in place to achieve their potential.

In the Summer Term the SENCO attended a five-week Professional Training Programme run by Middletown Autism Centre.

This Training Programme was available to all teachers in Northern Ireland. A Parent Training Programme was also available. The Programme content focused on the following areas:

- *Autism, Learning Style and the Impact of Visual Teaching Methods*
- *Autism and Sensory Processing*
- *Autism and Anxiety Management*
- *Autism and the Promotion of Positive Behaviour*
- *Autism and Transitions*

This training was invaluable and the SENCO will use the expertise gained from the programme to build the capacity of our staff in St. Joseph's.

St Joseph's will be hosting this Autism Training Programme for Parents and Professionals by Middletown Autism Centre in January 2018.

The SENCO met with a representative from Cottown Reading Unit in June to receive training in the use of Read Write Gold. This application provides effective support to Key Stage 2 children with dyslexia as it makes reading, writing and research more accessible.

This training was disseminated to staff in August and it will be included in our training programme for Classroom Assistants in 2017-18.

U ICT

In St Joseph's the children learn how to use technology to handle, interpret and communicate information, to solve problems, pose questions and to be creative. Our vision is to ensure that the children have the confidence and abilities they will require to be successful in a rapidly evolving technological world.

In 2016-17 we continued to consolidate on our work across the key stages to ensure that ICT is seamlessly integrated to extend and support the children's learning.

Our UICT co-ordinator attended the CCEA 'Thinking for Digital' Conference in September – where current themes and developments were explored. It focused on the need to create 'digital makers' – requiring pupils to use computational thinking - a broad range of thinking skills, so that pupils are able to break down problems and come up with creative solutions in a computing environment.

The e-Learning Co-ordinator also attended a focus group at CCEA where proposals for the new NI Curriculum for ICT (charting the progress of pupils from digital citizen to digital workers to becoming digital makers) were discussed.

All this highlighted the teaching of coding as a vital element of the Interactive Design element of the UICT Curriculum. We have a progressive programme in place – through the use of programming Beebots, Scratch Jr and Scratch to ensure the pupils build on capacity and programming skills.

Each year group has identified the area of the curriculum where coding can be developed - in P6, through the Space topic when pupils launch a rocket to Mars and in Primary Seven the pupils created a program to draw an eight-pointed star pattern. There was overwhelming demand for places at the P4/P5 Code Club where 30 keen and enthusiastic coders developed skills they can bring forward into the future.

We are investigating the use of robotics and programmable devices to enhance our teaching of interactive design and computational thinking.

While the programming of beebots and coding with Scratch are vital, we are looking at resourcing other programmable device – for example, Dot and Dash, to enhance the children’s experiences.

We maintained our cross phase link with St Colman’s Ballynahinch during 2016-17 and a member of the Mathematics Department visited to observe how ICT is used to support the children’s learning in mathematics. We were able to share information about apps and websites which we find useful in supporting the pupils’ learning.

We continued to explore new developments in UICT. Our ICT Co-ordinator attended a STEM education event at Nerve Belfast on UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – drones) and a member of the P6 teaching team attended training on integrating the use of Minecraft into our World Around Us Curriculum when the Primary Sixes undertook a project linking our work on Vikings and Minecraft.

Our website continues to be a valuable link between school and home. We are developing our ability to communicate with parents and our wider school community through our collaboration with Edtap – where an app uses our website content and presents it for a mobile audience through the iPhone, iPad and Android phones/tablets. The app will be launched for parents when it has been road tested, but feedback from staff who have downloaded the app has been very positive.

Communication

We are now using the ‘Scholastic Reading Pro’ with all our pupils in Key Stage Two. This is a system for developing successful readers. It includes a computer - adaptable reading assessment that identifies each student’s reading level which is reported in Lexile measures.

The results are automatically calculated and ‘Scholastic Reading Pro’ generates a variety of reports to help teachers monitor student progress. The children are scored and then directed towards certain titles matching their reading level. Once they have finished the book they can take the quiz to check comprehension. A detailed record is kept of each child’s progress as they move through each stage of the process. This programme gives teachers the ability to better match pupils to personalised, appropriately levelled, reading recommendations.

The results from this year and the feedback from the children are very favourable, encouraging our pupils to read more and to make better choices about what they read.

We continue to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school in the teaching of phonics. This year we extended our revision of our approach to the teaching of phonics into the Primary 5 Year Group.

The J Spell 5 scheme now incorporates the different ways of spelling linked to the focus sound taught that particular week.

The scheme is differentiated to meet the needs of all our Primary 5 children and there is a further section to extend our more able learners.

We were delighted to welcome renowned author Paul Cookson to read his poetry to P4/P5/P6 and P7 year groups. The children knew him through his work in the poetry collections 'Silly Poems' and 'Disgusting Poems.' There was lots of laughter as he recited some of his hilarious poems. The children responded well to the disgusting poems too! It was a great afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff.

The pupils from Nursery through to Primary 7 celebrated World Book Day in style! Pupils and staff took photographs of themselves reading in strange or famous places. They made a wonderful display in the school foyer. 'Get Caught Reading' was a big talking point and certainly raised the reading profile in St. Joseph's.

On World Book Day the children and staff dressed up as their favourite book character. The school was overrun with Harry Potter characters, Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf, Where's Wally? Matilda, Alice in Wonder Land, The Lion from Wizard of Oz, Jacqueline Wilson's 'Double Act' and Katniss from The Hunger Games.

The Primary Seven classes enjoyed a storytelling workshop at the Island Arts Centre in Lisburn.

Once again this year, the Primary 4 and Primary 6 year groups participated in a scheme organised by Carryduff Library. The children joined the library and each class experienced 3 sessions learning all about how the library is organised. They thoroughly enjoyed their visits.

Mathematics and Numeracy

During Term One P4-P6 pupils undertook the NINA Assessments. This new data was used by teachers to further inform their planning. As well as identifying the low achievers, each teacher identified the more able learners when completing the Tracking and Improvement proforma. The extended provision made for these pupils is set out in the weekly planners.

The Mathematics and Numeracy Co-ordinator was invited by CCEA to review a series of classroom activities to support the teaching and learning of mathematics. This entailed trialling the materials with pupils and attending a focus group meeting at CCEA to provide feedback.

In September St Joseph's pupils helped to launch Math's Week at St George's Market. This is a place where maths takes place on a daily basis and it was great to be a part of the hustle and bustle of market life for the morning! The Minister of Education and Lord Mayor of Belfast were on hand to interact and to talk with the pupils about maths.

During November the Using Maths Co-ordinators, P4 and P7 teachers from Carryduff and Lisnasharragh schools met at Lisnasharragh Primary School to investigate if there was consistency of levelling pupils work in P4 and P7. The P4 and P7 teachers shared samples of number work and agreed a level for each piece. The Co-ordinators also shared information on strategies used for monitoring and evaluating, classroom practice and methods used for collating evidence of the progress made.

At the beginning of Term Two, Mathematics and Numeracy co-ordinator met with the Using Maths Co-ordinator from St Colmcille's Ballymena. The purpose of the meeting was to share the good practices St. Joseph's has achieved in developing skills and processes through problem solving and investigations.

Teachers were released from class to review "Using Mathematics" tasks included in the CCEA Exemplification Library. Each year group reviewed their planning to ensure the planned activities provided adequate opportunities to develop the children's thinking skills.

A member of the Maths teaching staff from St Colman's HS, Ballynahinch met with Mathematics and Numeracy Co-ordinator to discuss teaching strategies. She is working with a group of Year 8s who have low mathematics attainment. The Mathematics and Numeracy Co-ordinator demonstrated several strategies St Joseph's currently uses to teach long multiplication. She also recommended resources that would support the pupils' learning.

The Mathematics and Numeracy Co-ordinator attended a CPD course "Active Learning in Mathematics to Promote Growth Mindset and Address Gender Related Issues." The course materials were disseminated to the staff.

Congratulations to the two P6. classes who won the two EA-SE inter schools 'Sumdog' competition. Over the period of two weeks the classes answered nearly 120,000 questions correctly. The winning classes received free membership to the site for a year.

Modern Languages

2016/17 was another busy and productive year for Modern Languages provision here at St Joseph's.

We were extremely lucky to have secured the services of Madam Deirdre McReynolds, formerly a teacher at Assumption Grammar School, to deliver two short blocks of French lessons to the children in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 during terms 1 & 3 of this year. Madam Mc Reynolds, who has a wealth of experience in teaching French language, was delighted to note just how our French language learning has been developed and progressed throughout the school. She has followed the schemes of work that we already have in place and has delivered 'hands on', activity based lessons in which the children are very much involved. Consequently, the feedback from both staff members and children has been extremely positive.

In September of Term One we celebrated European Day of Languages with a range of languages activities. There was a flag trail, poster competition and languages homework activities in each year group. The Nursery and Primary 1 made French flags and were excited to receive a visit from the Primary 5 pupils who performed some of the songs with actions from their French concert.

As part of the EDL celebrations, the P5 concert was made up of an impressive array of French songs, actions dance and role play. Parents and friends who came to see it were thrilled to see the children dressed in costume and enjoying the experience of performing on stage while demonstrating the depth of their French language.

There was also a KS2 assembly during which we invited pupils in different year groups who have knowledge of a second language to share some simple phrases with us. It was a wonderful opportunity for our KS2 pupils to learn about the languages of different countries. The session also provided the opportunity to promote our appreciation and understanding of some of the families with backgrounds in different cultures who make up our increasingly diverse school community.

The KS2 pupils continued to make steady progress at their Mandarin. Viv, our Confucius Classroom tutor, differentiated her lessons between year groups and tried to ensure that there was progression in the learning whilst also providing opportunities for revision and revisiting of key vocabulary. Viv also endeavoured to provide fun, interesting lessons with as many practical activities such as games, role play, songs and craft, built in where possible.

The Primary 7 pupils were the first year group to have had the opportunity to learn some Mandarin throughout KS2, twenty-one of these children going on to achieve their YCT 1 (Youth Chinese Test Level 1) exam. They left St Joseph's with a good foundation in basic Mandarin vocabulary and conversation that provides them with an excellent springboard should they wish to take it further at secondary level.

In support of their language work, the Primary 5 children gained some insight into the cultural aspect of Chinese New Year through Viv who shared her own stories and experiences with them.

She also showed the pupils how to do Chinese paper folding and they all produced their own Chinese lanterns as part of the New Year celebrations. Also marking Chinese New Year, all of our P5 & P6 pupils entered the Confucius Institute poster competition highlighting the celebration. Many of our pupils' entries were of a very high standard.

In the second term an after school Irish club was formed. Irish was taught to some of our P4, P5, P6 and P7 children. The weekly class introduced pupils to basic conversational Irish through a variety of role play, songs, games and poems. All of the Primary 5, 6 & 7 pupils in the class were prepared for and took part in the class stage of Belfast Feis which was run by Conradh na Gaeilge. Each pupil had to recite a poem and take part in Irish conversation. A number of pupils then went on to represent our school at the interschool level which took place in June at Corpus Christi College, Belfast. Three St Joseph's pupils were lucky enough to receive prizes which was a fabulous achievement given the high standard.

We continue to evaluate and amend our plans and look forward to next year with exciting new ideas and initiatives in mind.

Music

Music lessons recommenced on Monday 4th September. Mrs Magee Gough replaced Mrs Leonard as a violin teacher.

Our School Orchestra had become too big and so we formed a Junior Orchestra which Mrs Magee Gough rehearsed on Mondays.

Mrs McMullan assumed responsibility for the School Orchestra and Miss McCutcheon conducted the School Band. The Music Co-ordinator taught the School Recorder Group on Tuesdays after school.

A final year Music student from St Mary's College, taught Primary Four and Five recorder classes in Terms One and Three. Mrs Diane Creighton continued to conduct choir, teach violin and provide a creative music programme for Primary Six pupils.

A programme of Music was provided for a Senior Citizens' concert in Lough Moss on 8th December and the School Chamber Orchestra played music at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass in the Parish Hall.

Christmas concerts took place in December and every child had the opportunity to participate in one of the four Christmas concerts (5th-20th December). The Band and Orchestra provided seasonal music for Open Day on 19th December.

All pupils were entered for Trinity College Music exams in November, March and June and the whole exam experience was much better than Associated Board. The work in extra- curricular activities culminated in our annual Spring concert on Thursday 30th March.

Music enhanced the liturgical events in the school year with the School Choir singing at First Eucharist and Mrs McMullan complemented the Music for Confirmation in February 2017.

Mentoring

St Joseph's continues to be a popular choice for students to gain valuable work experience in preparation for a career in education. This has been a particularly busy year. We have had requests from a wide range of colleges, schools and institutions for placements in St Joseph's to see high quality teaching and learning in action.

We hosted a large number of our past pupils from Assumption Grammar, Ballynahinch, St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch, St Patrick's Grammar School Downpatrick, Aquinas Grammar School, Our Lady & St Patricks College, Knock and Lagan College Belfast.

These students who are considering a career in teaching, enjoyed a week's work experience in classes from Nursery to Primary 7. It was a very busy but rewarding experience for the students. We wish them every success in their future careers.

Two 4th Year students from St Mary's University College undertook the 'Volunteer Teacher Reading Programme' in St. Joseph's. They taught a lesson each week with an individual child in Key Stage One to support them with their reading. We also facilitated 8 first year students from St. Mary's University College to observe the P4 and P6 classes in action. These visits helped to enable these first year students to see how a classroom is managed and how the school works as a community of learning, in preparation for their first teaching experience. This year we hosted four B.Ed. students from St Mary's University College, Belfast. These young teachers provided inspiration, enthusiasm and great energy to the classes and to their teachers.

In partnership with St. Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges we again participated in the Cross Border Initiative.

We were delighted to welcome two students for placement from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra into the Primary 7 classes. They sampled life as a teacher in Northern Ireland.

Two students from Stranmillis University College came on placement in Foundation. These students undertook observations of children and engaged in planned activities for the duration of their 3-week placement. They were Year 2 students studying for BA Hons in Early Childhood Studies.

We also welcomed one B Ed Year One student on placement from Stranmillis.

We also hosted one PGCE student from the Ulster University placed in Primary One.

Students from Belfast Metropolitan College and South Eastern Regional College were placed in Nursery, Foundation and Key Stage One classes.

Both Primary Seven classes benefited from the expertise of the 'Medics in Schools' Programme. Medical students from Queens University, Belfast came to the classes weekly and taught the children about the human body and healthy living.

The Teacher Tutor delivered a presentation to PGCE students in Stranmillis University College on the use of WALT/WILF to focus the learning.

The Teacher Tutor and students from St. Mary's University College participated in a group discussion on 'The Role of the Teacher Tutor during School Experience.' This session was recorded and will be used by St. Mary's University College in training sessions.

One member of the teaching staff successfully completed the Induction process of Initial Teacher Education this year.

Physical Education

Curriculum Development

One of the targets identified for PE in 2016/17 was to develop an Athletics programme for Key Stage 2 and to build teachers' capacity to deliver a broad and balanced PE Curriculum. An Athletics programme has been produced entitled 'On your Marks'. This is a set of comprehensive lessons which focuses on specific skills in Athletics. The PE store has been replenished with wonderful new equipment essential for effective delivery of Athletics lessons e.g. long jump mats, javelins and hurdles. The teachers fully embraced the programme and will embed it in their PE provision each year.

Coaching Provision

Key Stage 2 benefited from coaching provided by the Down County Board. They also took part in the Everybody Active Programme. This programme has been valuable in developing the children's skills in a variety of games and also in building capacity within our teachers to deliver the Games strand of the PE curriculum.

Sporting Events and Competitions

Gaelic Football

In term one, the boys participated in the annual Canon Esler competition and St. Joseph's hosted the preliminary round of the girls' indoor Gaelic. Later in the year the boys took part in the Cumann na mBunscoil 11 a-side league and also the annual Bredagh Blitz. The girls finished the year in June as Champions of the 9 a-side Cumann na mBunscoil league.

Handball

After participating in a league from November to March, the boys' and girls' handball teams from Primary Six secured a place in South East Primary School Olympic Handball Final. The boys were crowned champions.

Cross Country

The Cross Country team had a great year of training and competing. They ran in the three rounds of the Flahavan's Porridge South Eastern Primary School Cross Country League. They ended the year at the Lisburn and Castlereagh Primary Schools Cross Country Event 2017. From this, one of our boys from Primary Seven qualified as an individual to compete in the Inter Area Event at Ormeau Park. He finished in a very impressive 17th position within a race of 88 boys. Every runner made significant improvements in their running throughout the year.

Sports Hall Athletics

A selection of children from Primary Seven attended a Sports Hall Athletics event. They took part in a range of activities including long jump, endurance running, sprints, relays, speed bounce and chest push. Following this event, one girl from Primary Seven was selected to represent the Lisburn & Castlereagh region at the Athletics NI National Sportshall Finals at the Lagan Valley Leisureplex.

Golf

Three boys from Primary 6 took part in an annual Primary Schools Golf Competition at Castlereagh Hills. Our pupils formed a team with Gilnahirk PS and they won the competition.

Active Travel

St. Joseph's promoted Active Travel consistently throughout the year. The main events were a walking bus, Ditch the Dark Day, Cycle to Santa and The Big Pedal. We continue in our efforts each year to encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. The Eco-Council have been invaluable with promotion of Active Travel.

After- School Activities

A wealth of after school activities were offered to children throughout the year. Registrations were held at the beginning of each term and activities were filled to capacity. Some new activities introduced this year included Art Club and Basketball.

Nursery

During the month of September, the children settled in very well. The parents have been extremely supportive during the settling in process. We got to know one another and the children have enjoyed making new friendships.

We did lots of planting in our nursery garden and in the eco-garden during the first term. We planted a wide range of bulbs, some of them kindly donated by our parents, in our new pots and we enjoyed seeing the growth of our daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocuses etc. in spring.

In November we opened our very own fruit and vegetable shop with real fruits and vegetables. We had been growing carrots in nursery and so we were able to extend our knowledge and understanding about fruits and vegetables.

We explored lots of root vegetables and we learned that when we eat a carrot we are eating the root of the plant. We found out about where the different fruits and vegetables grow. We also enjoyed eating the carrots which we planted last year for our snack.

As usual, we had many interesting visitors throughout the year in nursery. The cross curricular activities provided by our visitors enhanced the children's learning, thinking and physical skills.

Some of our visitors were, Mr Hullabaloo and his interactive theatre, Debbie Dolittle and her rescued wild animals, Playball -physical and ball development programme, Banyan Theatre Company, Guide dogs etc.

During the month of December, the children brought so many jars and tins of food for the St Vincent De Paul Society. The children and their parents were certainly thinking of those who do not have as much as themselves.

The children worked very hard rehearsing for the Christmas Concerts and the parents were most impressed by our children's performance of Our First Nativity on Wednesday 16th December. The children coped very well with dressing up and performing in the school hall.

In January our winter topic was of great interest to the children. Our 'ice' topic provided excellent opportunities for the children to observe, predict and to further develop their thinking skills.

The topic naturally led to floating and sinking and we thoroughly enjoyed finding out about The Titanic. The children were so interested in The Titanic and they re-enacted the story in the water tray with lots of icebergs. The children enjoyed experimenting with water left outdoors at home and were excited when bringing in their own ice!

The children were fascinated when learning about the polar regions. They particularly enjoyed learning about the emperor penguins and their amazing life cycle. The children pretended to be penguins looking after their eggs and great fun was had when each class made a huddle when playing outside on a winter's day. During the month of February, we concentrated on the environment and introduced the topic of recycling. The children displayed excellent thinking and sorting skills as they sorted the rubbish into groups - plastic, glass, metal and paper.

The children enjoyed preparing and taking part in their sponsored obstacle course for Trócaire. Our parents were so generous in their response to our sponsored event.

In April we had caterpillars in nursery and they turned into pupae. It was so wonderful to watch the new butterflies emerge from the pupae! Such a lot of excitement and wonder! We all enjoyed observing our new butterflies in the butterfly house and when the children made the brave decision to release the butterflies we brought them up to the eco garden. We enjoyed watching our butterflies fly off to meet new friends in the buddleia bushes in the eco garden. The mud kitchen has been a great success with the children. There has been so much co-operative play and it has developed the children's creativity, independence and numeracy skills. We even discovered that the lentils the children added to their mud pies sprouted and grew.

The '2 Build a Profile' app has proved to be an invaluable tool in tracking the children's progress and ensuring that all are progressing and developing as expected.

There was such excitement when 'cheeping' was heard from the bird box in the nursery playground. The children were delighted to see the 'parent' birds fly in and out of the bird box delivering food to their offspring.

Our parents have enjoyed our plasma screen. The plasma screen, website and monthly newsletters have kept our parents informed about our Nursery curriculum and activities. The photographs and text give a valuable glimpse of the children at work.

LMS ACCOUNT 2016/2017

SCHOOLS DELEGATED BUDGET

INCOME	
Budget for Year	£1,232,260
Staff Costs (Teaching and Non Teaching)	£1,111,144
Premises and operating costs	£76,350
Budget Adjustments	£-1,590
TOTAL	£1,185,904
Carry forward to 2017/2018	£46,356

St. Joseph's School Fund Account 2016/2017

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL		
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Year Ended 31/08/17		
		£
Balances brought forward	£47,089	
Income		£62,715
Expenditure		£53,736
Surplus		£8,979
Balances carried forward	£56,068	