

Millennium



INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

2022 - 2023 Academic Year

Our children are, and feel, safe
Our Children feel good about school
Our Children see school as a partnership

Introduction

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to be able to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for Millennium for the academic year 2022- 2023, where we were able to have a 'normal' school year after the disruptions of the previous years.

The routines and regularity of school were missed in the previous years, and it was a relief to be able to return to these in 2022-23. It was a mixed year – with the optimism of the school build starting being stopped in June 2022 when the contract was halted just prior to signing. Throughout the year, there were negotiations and work with the Department of Education to get some movement which resulted in the site clearance over the summer of 2023. I would like to express my gratitude to all involved in the process and to Breedon for the expediency and level of work completed so that the grounds were ready for children and staff returning in August 2023.

The role of the Governor team in the life of Millennium should not be underestimated. As a Grant-Maintained Integrated school, there is considerable responsibility and duty put onto the governor team on a regular basis. Our Board meets on a monthly basis (usually the evening of the first Thursday of the month) as well as members sitting on a range of other committees (such as admissions, recruitment, finance and policy) in between these regular full meetings. Members also commit time to fulfil recruitment duties, usually at weekends, as they seek to recruit the best talent to the school and for your children. This level of accountability and responsibility is well above what happens in other, non-GMI schools. I would also highlight the close and important relationship between myself and the Chair, Mr Declan Hall. The constructive challenge that comes in the relationship has improved my skills as a principal and I appreciate the time and effort that has gone into ensuring the best for the school.

The Governors continue to demonstrate their commitment to the life of the school by giving their time and experience freely, and they ensure that I am supported to the best of their ability in maintaining the high standards which we set for the children and staff in Millennium.



Mr Barry Corrigan
Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors

Chairperson's Report

I am delighted to be able to report the completion of another successful academic year at Millennium Integrated Primary School with the return to normality in 2022-2023 that we all craved.

As we returned to these levels of normality, the school staff team continued to adapt and ensure that the learning for all the children continued in the 'Millennium Way'. The curriculum continued to be delivered, albeit with understanding of the impact of the previous years, and I am delighted to see the continued progress across the school. The team understands that there will continue to be 'fall out' from COVID for a number of years and lessons have been learned in regards to how teams work under pressure and how well they can come together. This is something I hope to see develop in the coming years, too.

I recognise that none of the success of the school as a whole is complete without the good working relationships between home and school. I would like to thank you, as parents and guardians, for your continued support of the school on many different levels. It is important to recognise this relationship and the part it plays in the everyday life and success in Millennium.

We have seen the flexibility of the School Development Plan tested by the disruption of the past couple of years. However, this will be revised and implemented in line with Department of Education guidance through the stewardship of the principal.

There was disappointing news in June 2022 regarding the proposed build of the new school. This cancelled programme has had an impact on the timeline for development, however, the Department worked with representatives of the Board to ensure that there was ground clearance work completed over the summer of 2023. This was, in no small part, due to the work of all parties involved to try to get the project on track.

With normality, came usual school routines and activities. There was a return to a regular Open Day without restrictions, for example. The Saturday Open Morning continues to attract wealth of interest from current and new families. We are delighted to see the continued interest in the school and all that it has to offer. It was also pleasing to welcome events such as the Carol Service and the end of year P7 performance back onto the calendar of events. This academic year also marked the end of a two-test system for post-primary schools, with all the local schools involved agreeing to move towards a single entrance test for 2023-2024 academic year.

The Board of Governors continued to meet monthly to support Mr Corrigan and his team throughout with full Board meetings on an monthly basis, as well as regular committee meetings. It has to be remembered that the education system is undergoing significant strain from lack of resources across the system and I would like to acknowledge the work of the Millennium team in ensuring that the school continued to be prudent while, at the same time, committing to delivering a consistent educational experience. We are kept up to date with the ongoing financial struggles being faced within the school and continue to support Mr Corrigan and Mrs Lowry as

they navigate these difficult financial times. Again our entire staff team have demonstrated an unrivalled level of commitment to delivering an ongoing high quality learning experience for all of our children and, on behalf of the Governors, I would take this opportunity to congratulate them for a job well done.

My thanks also to the Board of Governors team for the ongoing contributions at the various junctures throughout the year and also to our Parents' Council who carry out excellent work continually.

A final thanks again to everyone who is part of the Millennium experience. I look forward to us all working together to deliver an equally exciting and successful year ahead.



Declan Hall
Chair of Governors

Composition of the Board of Governors 2022-23

The Scheme of Management for the Board of Governors allows for 16 voting members, the Principal of the school and any co-opted members.

The principal and co-opted members do not have voting rights.

Of the voting members:

- 6 shall be Foundation Governors, at least one-third of whom shall, at the time of their appointment, be parents of children attending the school;
- 4 shall be appointed by the Department of Education;
- 4 shall be elected by parents of children attending the school from amongst the parents of such children; and
- 2 shall be elected by the teachers

Department of Education Representatives

Mr Reg Magowan (Jan 2018)

Mr Rodney Dowling (Jan 2018)

Foundation Governors

Mr Declan Hall (Chair) [Designated Foundation Governor in September 2021]

Ms Denise McBay (Vice-Chair)

Mr Neil McGrath (Designated as a Foundation Governor in September 2019)

Ms Tessa Curry (Designated Foundation Governor in September 2021)

Parent Governors

Mr Richard Ross (Appointed September 2021)

Mrs Annie Davis (Appointed September 2021)

Teacher Representatives

Mr Damian McArdle (Resigned June 2022)

Mr Alan McPherson (September 2021)

Non-Voting Member / Secretary to the Board of Governors

Barry Corrigan (Principal)

Responsibility of the Governors

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of the pupils. This involves:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school;
- Taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors; and
- Promoting good governance.

Governors are responsible for the following aspects of the school:

Strategic Governance

- Setting the school's aims and visions
- Establishing and maintaining the school's ethos
- Setting the school's plans and policies
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's performance
- Promoting self-evaluation

Corporate Governance

- School performance measures
- School finances
- Curriculum planning
- Staff management – appointments, performance, welfare, etc.
- Pupil pastoral care, protection issues, health and safety, etc.
- Pupil admissions
- Publication of information regarding school and its pupils
- Managing the school premises and relations with the community

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school rests with the Principal, who advises the Governors on issues arising from this operational responsibility.

Arrangements for the next election of parents to the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors welcome the opportunity to invite members of the parent body onto the Board. They actively seek nominations for places to be filled, when they become available. As well as this, the Governors always seek to increase the wealth of knowledge on the Board from the wider community. It is important to the Governors that the membership of the Board reflects the community of the school, too.

Review of the Year 2022-2023

After the disruption of the previous two years, this was the opportunity for the school to get back into a structured routine. The restrictions of the previous years had been more or less lifted and the school did all it could to restore normality to the children's education. This included getting into previous routines such as assemblies, shared lunches and classes mixing and the all important Christmas performances and carol service for KS2 – moving away from the class bubbles of the previous 18 months.

With this new year came new challenges for our community and this was felt through the increasing challenge of the cost of living. To support families and maintain access to the curriculum, the Parents Council funded the trip to swimming for all families in KS2 throughout the year. This was a very generous gesture and made an important contribution to the education of those children. We added two new uniform suppliers to the school catalogue – Signature and Ethical school wear. This now means that there is a choice of suppliers for families to choose from and, hopefully, offer some competitive choice when it comes to purchasing uniforms. As well as this, the school also established a uniform stall where parents could take advantage of pre-loved items for a small donation. As a staff, we also took the decision to limit each class to one trip within the year to, again, minimise further stress on home budgets.

The biggest disappointment for the start of the year [and the end of the previous one] was that the expected start of the build of the school was cancelled. The disappointment was palpable for the whole school community – as it was cancelled so close to when it was due to commence in July 2022. However, the work to get the build back on track continued and members of the Board of Governors continued to meet and engage with the Department of Education to get to some resolution. This culminated at the end of the 2023 academic year when work was initiated to clear the land at the back of the school.

The curriculum returned to normal for the year and, with it, came the post-primary entrance tests. However, 2022-23 was to be the last year of a two-test system for grammar schools when it was announced that they would come under a single test referred to as SEAG [Schools Entrance Assessment Group]. Again, the joint efforts of teachers in P6 and P7 in having dedicated after-school classes, mid-term revision classes and dedicated practice days in the week meant that the children involved continued to have a sustained level of preparation – whilst juggling ongoing classwork. When it came to the school preferences in April, all children were placed in a post-primary school and the vast majority got their first preference.

We had a dedicated Science Week in the school – with a range of activities planned and led by Mr Donnelly, where the whole school took part in a range of experiments and investigations. This was also supported by a range of STEM ambassadors and students from Stranmillis Teaching College. In April of that year, the school hosted its own 'Millennium's Got Talent' show [organised by Miss Smyth] for pupils to showcase their talents – regardless of whether it was sporting, musical, dramatic, acting and so on. This will be a bi-annual event with a more traditional Spring Concert taking place in the intervening years.

There was recognition of the ongoing work in the school through the success in the IEF Carson Awards for Creativity, the annual evaluation and report for the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and the school and staff also received nominations and were successful in the Family First Awards evening in April 2023.

Action Short of Strike Action continued in the school over this period, which had an impact on the ability to move the school forward in a strategic way. This was also coupled with the DE relaxing the requirement on School Development Planning as schools continued to readjust to life after the impact of COVID. However, over this period, teaching staff took the opportunity to ensure that their actions had as least an impact as possible on children. To help strengthen relationships within the school, accommodations were made to ensure that a second round of parent-teacher meetings took place in March. These also, in the main, returned as face to face meetings [with alternative provision being made, as requested]. PRSD observations took place with some of the focus being on the work being completed by the curriculum leaders in the school as well as teaching observations.

A number of workshops were also held for parents and staff in the school. A Linguistic Phonics workshop, led by Mr McPherson, helped develop an understanding of the spelling strategy used within the school. We also had child mental health workshops for parents, led By Deborah Nelson, which also include supporting parents of children with Neurodiverse conditions. This was followed up in the school with Deborah also working with staff to help them gain an understanding of the impact on child mental health and how they could be supportive.

In March, we had a whole range of activities to mark Integrated Education Month. This culminated in a 'culture day' at the end of the month where we marked the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast / Good Friday agreement and were joined by representatives of the two main parties [SDLP's Claire Hanna and the UUP's Doug Beattie] who are acknowledged as the architects of the agreement, as well as Nick Mathison and Sorcha Eastwood of the Alliance Party. They met with our older children, answering questions and reminiscing about their memories of the Agreement.

Other notable visitors to the school included Mike Nesbitt and Robbie Butler from the UUP and a delegation from the SDLP including Matthew O'Toole and Claire Hanna [through councillor John Gallen]. We were also visited by Councillors David Lee-Surginor and Tierna Howie – all lending their support to the school's development proposal to increase the admissions figure for the school to 60 and an overall enrolment to 420 – submitted to the EA for publication on 22nd May 2023.

We welcomed back our full roster of after-school activities as well as outside clubs getting involved in the school. Ranging from Saintfield Cricket Club to Ulster Rugby and Darragh Cross and Carryduff GAA clubs. Andrea Grimason worked with our P7 classes and put on an end of year show involving all of the pupils. Primary 5 Blue class also performed at the Crescent Arts Theatre – showcasing their talents, too. The school was also awarded its Green Flag in recognition of the work done to be an 'eco-school'.

Towards the end of the year, the Board of Governors gave the go-ahead for senior management to approach the EA to discuss establishing a SPiM [Specialist Provision in Mainstream] class within the school – focusing on Social Communication. This was positively received and arrangements were then put in place to convert an existing medical room and multi-purpose room into teaching spaces; a changing room was to be converted to a sensory space and a secure outside play area was to be established at the front of the school. This work was scheduled to take place over the summer holidays at the end of the 2022-23 academic year, too.

I would also like to, again, pay tribute to the work of the Parents' Council in supporting the school over the year. They gave a lot of their own time to arrange our new summer fair in June and, blessed with great weather, it was a huge success. Such events are very difficult to put together and I pay tribute to all of their efforts and hard work. I am sure that they would be very grateful for any new members to get involved and support the continuing work.

Staff and Class Structure

Principal: Mr Barry Corrigan

Vice Principal: Mr Alan McPherson

Literacy Leader: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald

Numeracy Leader: Mrs Catherine Kingston

World Around Us Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Shared Education Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Creative Arts Leader: Miss Suzanne Smyth

Integration Leader: Mrs Rachel Bolingbroke

Foundation Leader: Mrs Sarah Mathison

Key Stage 1 Leader: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald

Key Stage 2 Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Classroom Teachers

Nursery: Mrs Jennifer Houston

Primary 1: Mrs Lisa McMullen; Mrs Ruth Salazar

Primary 2: Mrs Sarah Mathison; Mrs Rachel Orderly / Mrs Catherine Kingston

Primary 3: Mrs Rachel Bolingbroke / Mrs Eithne White

Primary 4: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald / Mrs Judith Taggart

Primary 5: Mr Rory Gardner / Mrs Zoe Heatherington; Mrs Hannah McKee

Primary 6: Miss Suzanne Smyth / Mr Damian McArdle

Primary 7: Mr Brendan Donnelly / Mr Alan McPherson

Learning Support Team

SENCo: Mr Justyn Mackay (Started January 2022)

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Finn Magee

Classroom Assistants

Nursery: Stacey Walsh, Arlene Flynn

Primary 1: Marie Coiley, Mary-Anne McKervey

Primary 2: Helen McCullen, Elaine Devlin

Learning Support Assistants

Wendy Adair, Judith Boyle, Roisin Carson, Denise Davison, Louise Flynn, Lisa Foster, Jenny Hall, Jennifer Holden, Joanne McGrath, Fiona Robinson, Chloe Shannon, Rosemarie Stevenson, Michelle Whyte

Administration Team

Financial Administrator: Frances Lowry

Secretary: Beata Mis

School Meals: Suzanne Beattie, Ellen Woods, Eunyoung Hwang

Parents Council Report 2022 - 2023

Millennium Parents Council started off as, and continues to be, a group whose purpose is to bring parents, teachers and pupils together socially and join the whole school as a community. I personally think we have reached that expectation by providing the pupils with fun days and experiences with money that we have raised through successful events. Our focus for this academic year was to concentrate on events to grow a sense of community again after 2 tricky Covid years.

First on our agenda for the year was Halloween. We arranged for every child to take part in a mask competition. Everyone received a chocolate lolly, and there were 2 prizes provided for each class. This is a simple activity which can be done in class time, but one that is always a hit with the pupils.

We were happy to help the P1 team by providing and serving tea and coffee at their Harvest Assembly.

Christmas celebrations come around fast, and we like to do a few things to help celebrate it. The children were all able to design a Christmas card, and our new supplier made it even easier for us as parents were able to place their orders online. It certainly cut down on the hours of spell checking!

We also got in early with organising our Christmas raffle. This had been such a success the previous year, and it is lovely that every class has a winner. A couple of us volunteered and spent a day wrapping hampers and they looked fantastic. Parents were able to buy tickets for their class online. Winners were announced at the Christmas fair.

The Christmas fair is largely arranged by staff, but as a Parents Council we were able to support this by buying decorations for the hall and by selling tea, coffee, mulled wine and edible treats for attendees.

The beautiful Christmas tree greeting visitors at the entrance is happily provided by Parents Council at the start of December each year and really is a lovely welcoming sight. As per tradition, Father Christmas paid a visit and we were able to make sure he had treats for all.

Unfortunately a couple of Christmas events planned were not able to go ahead due to lack of interest. These were a jumper sale (who doesn't love a festive knit?) and a wreath making activity. We were convinced that they were great ideas, so decided to revisit them next year and maybe change our approach.

We are no sooner back in January and Open Mornings are upon us. We were happy to volunteer to provide and serve refreshments, as well as chat with prospective parents on their way in to the school.

The next term saw us run our Easter egg decorating competition for all in school, with some great prizes for each class. A very successful fundraiser for us then was entering teams in to the Belfast Marathon. We were so grateful for everyone who took part or supported this in whatever way they were able. It raised a large amount and meant we could support the school by paying towards their swimming lessons.

The highlight of the year is the Summer Fair, and the sun shone down on us all evening. It was a huge success with all sorts of activities and entertainment provided including inflatables, Fitness Freddy, Amazon Jungle Animals and face painting among many others. Lots of positive feedback was received from parents after the event.

Lastly, we supported the KS1 team and provided and served refreshments at the P1 induction.

We have had a successful year and will continue to try different events as well as the old faithfuls. Sharing out the responsibility within the committee could help to spread the load in preparation for the events, and hopefully allow it to run even more smoothly.

Finally, to close, I would like to show my appreciation by saying a few thank yous. Without you the events wouldn't take place or be as successful.

Mr Corrigan and staff

Admin staff (for the endless emails they have to read!)

Parent volunteers

The parents and pupils for supporting the events.

Last, but by no means least, the core Parents Council members and volunteers who work tirelessly to organise each and every event.

Sarah-Jane Middleton (chair)

Parents' Council Financial Report

September 2022 – June 2023

Opening balance as of September 2022 - £9,756.500 and a closing balance in June 2023 - £13,943.71

- Organised the Halloween Paper Plate challenge with prizes for 2 pupils from each class. Also provided chocolate lollies for all kids
- Organised and purchased decorations for the Christmas Fair, also organised a visit from Santa who gave out Chocolate treats for all pupils.
- Provided tea, coffee and biscuits for January 2023 Open mornings.
- Organised Relay teams with parents & teachers taking part in Belfast City Marathon where we raised £2,154.32.
- Parents council funded 50% of the P5-P7 swimming lessons – totalling - £2,254.45.
- Organised and provided many free activities during our 2023 Summer fair – facepainting, Fitness Freddie, Amazon Jungle animals and a bouncy castle.

	Expenses		Paid by	Income			
				Cash	£	-	
Belfast Relay 2023			Entry for 2nr Teams	£210.00	online transfer 21/11/2022	just giving	£ 100.69
	Team Nr 3	£145.00	online transfer 30/03/2023	just giving	£2,108.63		
					£300		
	total	£355.00		Total	£ 2,509.32		
				profit	£2,154.32		
	Expenses		Paid by	Income			
				Cash	£	-	
Swimming	Swimming lessons 50% of total invoices	£504.00	Online transfer 07/12/2022				
	Swimming lessons 50% of total invoices	£1,000.00	Online Transfer 15/05/2023				
	Swimming lessons 50% of total invoices	£448.45	Online Transfer 25/05/2023				
	Swimming lessons 50% of total invoices	£302.00	Online Transfer 15.09.2023				
	total	£2,254.45		Total	£	-	
				profit	-£2,254.45		
	Expenses		Paid by	Income			
				Cash	£	1,755.00	
Summer Fair 2023			Fitness Freddie	£160.00	cheque 02/06/2023	school money	£ 641.75
	Bus	£320.00	online transfer 31/05/2023	refund from the bus	£30.00		
	Amazon Jungle	£100	online transfer 07/06/2023				
	Inflatables & facepainting	£360.00	online transfer 29/06/2023				
	tuck shop	104.37	online transfer 13/06/2023				
	total	£1,044.37		Total	£ 2,426.75		
				profit	£1,382.38		

Enrolment

The permitted enrolment from the Department of Education is 392 and the school continues to meet the needs of the local community. The nursery has an enrolment of 52 – which is made up of an AM and PM session – both of which are considered part-time.

A Development Proposal was submitted to the Department of Education to increase the admissions number to 60 and gradually increase enrolment to 420 (14 classes x 30 children)

The Curriculum

Under the Education Reform Order, the responsibility of Governors for the curriculum, i.e. what is taught in the school, has been increased. The day-to-day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility.

It is a joint responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all children through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. All staff have participated and continue to participate in training opportunities to broaden their knowledge and expertise in delivering the skills-based curriculum.

There continued to be a reduction on formal assessments – with the Department of Education indicating that end of Key Stage assessments would not be required and there does not seem to be any indication of when they may return.

Entrance Tests

The series of unregulated entrance tests that Primary 7 children traditionally sit for those schools that use them went ahead – albeit with a reduction in content being assessed. As mentioned previously, this was the last year of the two separate tests with a single test being used from 2023-24 academic year onwards.

Religious Education

As an integrated school, we teach Religious Education through the agreed Christian syllabus designed by the four main churches in Northern Ireland. From Primary 2 through to Primary 7, each class has a designated world faith which is explored during Integrated Education Week.

We ensure that we celebrate, together, religious traditions which might be perceived to belong to one side or the other of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. We prepare our Roman Catholic children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Primary 3, First Holy Communion in P4 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Primary 7. Traditionally, ministers from a number of local Protestant churches would visit school on a rota basis. These are special events in the life of our school and are important aspects of our work as an integrated school.

The school engages with a wide range of organisations, Churches and other faiths and religions (especially across Integrated Education Month where there is a focus on world faiths). Part of that

engagement is inviting in members of local churches and groups to speak to the children in an assembly.

We ask that their assemblies focus on the monthly themes below:

September - Kindness

October - Peace

November - Sadness

December - Happiness

January - Family

February - Love

March - Patience

April - Forgiveness

May - Justice

June – Success

We like visitors to stay within our themes and to be aware of the growing diversity within the school and their duty to be inclusive of all children attending. To reinforce our approach and continue to raise the awareness of our diversity we hope to either meet with our visitors this term (given their availability) or write to them outlining our expectations especially within the Principles of Integrated Education.

Parents have the right to ask to have their children removed from religious instruction and assemblies.

Creative Arts

Miss Smyth organised instrumental music teachers for violin, lyre, piano, flute, clarinet, guitar and drums. We have around 50 children taking lessons in school. It was agreed that LSAs would accompany children with additional needs to their lessons.

The NI Piping and drumming association did a 6-week workshop for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We also arranged for local religious leaders to come and speak to pupils during their key stage assemblies. A timetable was created for wall displays around the school and for the use of the creative trees by the school office with a different theme for each month. This was building on the work that was done previously before the Covid pandemic.

School choirs were set up (KS2 and fun choir P3-P4) and performed at various events in the community including the Carryduff Community Carol Service and the Carryduff Christmas Market.

KS2 had a Christmas Carol service in Carryduff Presbyterian Church with a large number of parents attending. Nursery-P4 had their own year group nativities in the school hall.

Miss Smyth organised Millennium's Got Talent which showcased children's achievements in magic, comedy, gymnastics, dance, singing, instruments and much more. The event was a great success.

P7 performed their play for the school in June 2023.

Arrangements for children with Special Needs

Training was delivered at the beginning of term for LSAs in Sensory Integration Theory and the use of sensory circuits to support self-regulation for pupils with sensory differences. Staff were shown how to set up circuits in their own class areas using newly purchased equipment. This has helped to 'embed' SEN support in classrooms and key stage areas. Medical training was not offered from the HSC, however, Mr Mackay provided training in the management and care of Asthma, Diabetes and Anaphylaxis for all assistants.

Deaf and visual impairment awareness training was delivered to all teachers by the EA Sensory Support service. Upskilling all members of staff has proved to be useful and empowered teachers as more children have joined the school or been diagnosed with sensory impairments during the academic year.

Funding allowed for Miss McIlwaine to continue providing additional learning support teaching, with a focus on early numeracy development – an area that continues to have no educational support or funding from the EA.

In response to the growing levels of anxieties in the pupil population, Mr Mackay began delivering 'Drawing and Talking' sessions for pupils identified as having significant mental health concerns. This intervention is designed to act as a 'stopgap' when children are on waiting lists to be seen by medical professionals.

Lexplore was rolled out to more year groups after an trial in the previous academic year. This software is proving to be a useful tool in identifying literacy difficulties early, allowing for early intervention. It also helps to identify pupils who may be dyslexic but are 'performing well'. This is important as it helps teaching staff know how to support pupils to better understand their differences and reduce stress levels when completing work.

After identifying the need for extra support for some of our pupils exhibiting major attachment issues, we decided to self- fund daily nurture provision. To say this has been a success is an understatement. Our pupils, who in the first term were either school refusers or about to be excluded, are now skipping into school and exhibiting very few behavioural issues. Thus, helping not only the emotional welfare of the child but also that of their peers and class teachers. Before setting up our nurture room our identified pupils were creating and experiencing a toxic environment, with senior members of staff giving up huge amounts of their time to manage their behaviour. These children, after a few short months, were ready, and continue to be ready to learn.

Multi Professional Meetings were established as an additional opportunity for parents, and professionals from school and other service providers to meet before the annual review meeting. These have proved successful for the small number of pupils involved and we hope to increase these in the coming years.

Funding from the 'happy healthy minds' initiative allowed us to provide music therapy in house for 20 pupils.

Mental health training was provided for both school staff and parents by Debs Nelson – former parent and mental health practitioner.

A new assistant learning support coordinator was appointed - Lisa McMullan. Mrs McMullan focussed on training and working alongside Mr Mackay to establish plans for whole school provision in the incoming academic year.

The initial planning and set up of our new Specialist Provision in Mainstream – Oak Class was carried out in the final weeks of June and throughout the summer months. During this time design and construction work took place as well as consultations and planning with the EA and DE.

Overall, there is an increasing level of learning support being provided across all key stages, most notably in foundation and key stage one. Social, emotional and mental health is the area seeing the biggest increase of support needed.

There have also been changes in the operation of SARS (Statutory Assessment and Review Service), allowing parents to submit their own applications for statutory review. This has led to a significant increase in the number of pupils being processed for statutory review - the current legal standing is that these requests must be processed before internal referrals ie. school referrals. Currently, this system requires the school to submit detailed educational advice for pupils that were not considered a priority for the school. These are requested on multiple forms, often asking for repeated information. Unfortunately, there has not been an increase in capacity for the educational psychology service, leading to a significant reduction of the number of pupils we are able to put forward to be seen by educational psychology. Alongside this, there is an upward trend in the length, detail and number of forms teachers are being asked to complete as part of Autism and ADHD diagnosis pathways.

Safeguarding Children

Mr McPherson is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection with Mrs Kingston (maternity leave), Mrs Houston (nursery) and Mrs Magee as the Deputy Designated Teacher team. All teachers with Child Protection responsibilities have received training from the Education Authority which was updated in 2023 for everyone. Millennium Integrated Primary School has a confidential recording system for information about suspicion of abuse, disclosure of abuse and complaints against staff. This system has been enhanced in 2023 to enable us to track incidents clearly and ensure that there is an easy way to track incidents year on year. Child Protection training is delivered to all staff during the August training days and all staff are made aware of our Child Protection Policy and our staff Code of Conduct.

Signage around the school was updated to reflect new guidance from the Education Authority.

A detailed monthly report is provided to the Board of Governors by the Designated Teacher, and this includes details of actions the school is undertaking in relation to safeguarding. An annual report on child protection is given to the Board of Governors by the Designated Governor for Child

Protection. All staff and volunteers are vetted through the AccessNI in accordance with DE circulars and current legislation.

Necessary staff are trained to receive Operation Encompass calls – a PSNI/Education Authority initiative to inform school if we have child witness domestic Violence at home. The Education Authority has been working with the Designated Teacher to introduce Personal Education Plans for our Children Looked After. All Children Looked After will have a PEP by June 2024.

The safeguarding team now meets half-termly and the team has been streamlined to have a member of each Key Stage and the Nursery. The Governor rep is also invited to these meetings – where issues of a child protection matter are discussed, as well as pastoral concerns including attendance and punctuality of children.

Healthy Eating

Our focus on healthy eating practices is very important to the present and future well-being of the children. Through the curriculum, visitors to school, snacks at break time, packed lunches, school dinners and our annual Healthy Lifestyle Week we have continued to raise the profile of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The school receives its catering from an outside provider, who provides school dinners set to the nutritional standard of EA and DE. Parents are also encouraged to provide healthy food in lunches.

Our Sports Day took place in Lough Moss Leisure Centre this year.

Sport

At Millennium, we were offering the children the opportunity to experience a range of sports as part of the Physical Education curriculum as well as through the range of after-school clubs. We aim to increase the children's awareness of the benefits of sport and sporting activities in terms of healthy lifestyles, physical well-being and the value of teamwork.

Millennium welcomes in members from local sporting clubs to increase engagement with the community. These have included Saintfield Cricket Club, Darragh Cross and Carryduff GAA clubs and Ulster Rugby.

The Board of Governors recognise the importance of these offerings in school, however, the Board also had a duty to follow the appropriate guidance offered to schools at the time.

After-school clubs

We re-introduced a full rota of after-school clubs this year: Healthy Kidz - Multisport and Basketball on Mondays, Jujitsu on Tuesdays, Drama on Wednesdays, Football on Thursdays and Monkeynastix on Fridays (P1 and P2 only)

School Bus

The school bus has become a very popular option for children travelling home to Saintfield and Carryduff. The bus to Carryduff usually carries around 50 children each day and the Saintfield bus isn't too far behind.

We would like to continue to recommend this means of transport for the children in the afternoon as it should ease congestion within the car park area, along with other measures.

Kids' Corner

Marie Coiley and Sue Hill continue to provide an excellent service for the school community through their Breakfast Club (open from 7:30 am) and the after-school provision which is open Monday to Friday until 6:00 pm. This provision is available to families both in term time and during the school holidays.

Developing links with the local community

We had a range of links with the local community over the year. As well as highlighting the sporting links, we also took part in local Christmas celebrations in Carryduff. The school had been arranged to sing in Rowallane Gardens in Saintfield, however, this was abandoned due to poor weather on the day.

We continue to maintain our links with the Carryduff churches and, as well as the Sacraments taking place in The Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, we also held our Carol service in the Presbyterian Church.

This was the final year of our trip based Shared Education links, however, we will continue to explore how this might be developed through various activities.

Cross-Phase links with Local Secondary Schools

Our children attended a range of local open events in local post-primary schools. We also hosted them in the school to visit pupils. As well as this, our children went to see productions in Lagan College and Wellington College as well as experiencing a 'day in the life' of a Blackwater pupil.

School Development Plan

The School Development Plan cycle was vastly interrupted by the pandemic and was extended through suggestion from DE. The initial three-year plan of the SDP could not be enacted due to the range of disruptions and impact from COVID. However, the governors feel that the Outcomes approach reinforces the school as being a dynamic and forward-thinking one.

The Three Outcomes for Millennium Integrated PS are:

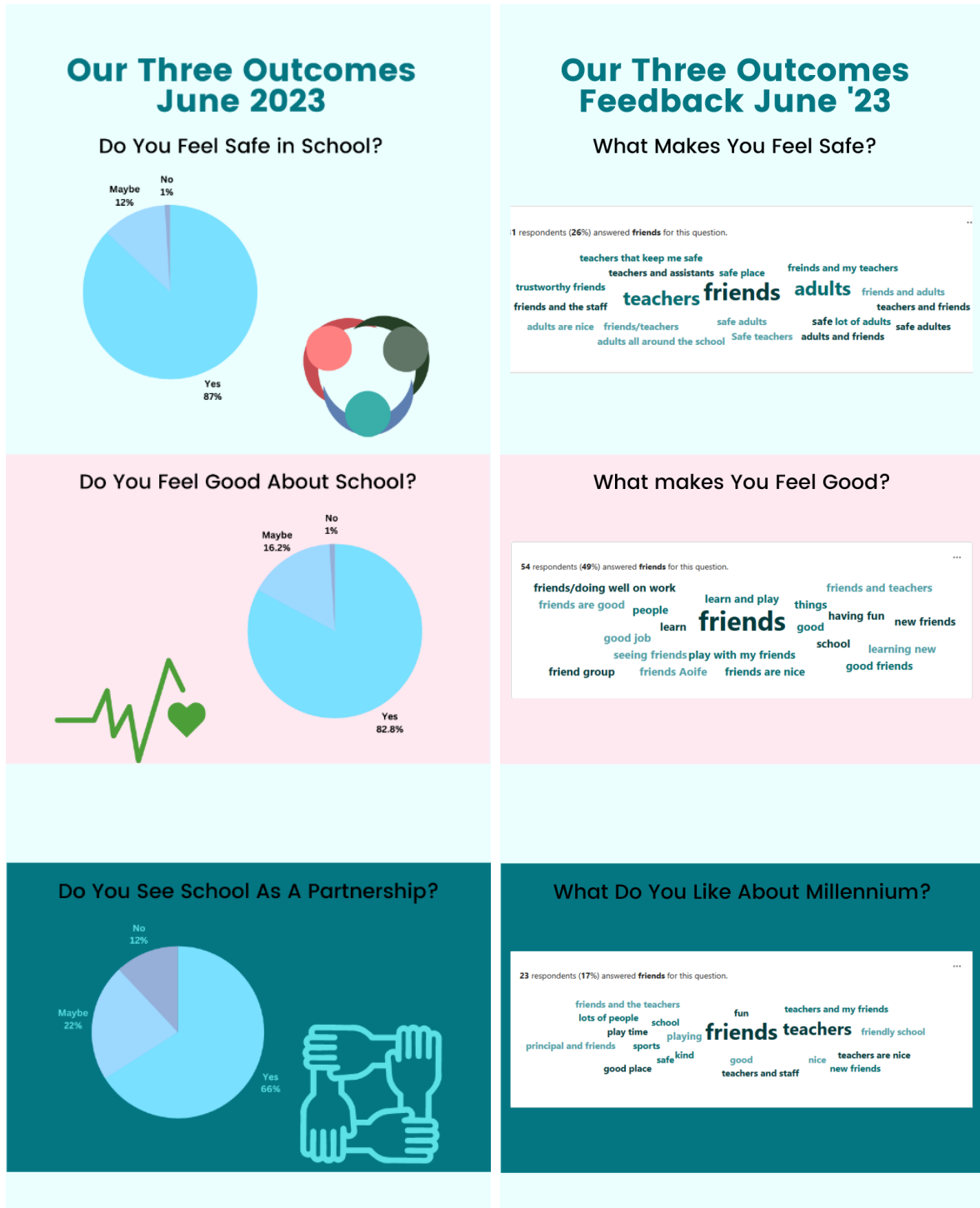
Our children are, and feel, safe

Our Children feel good about school

Our Children see school as a partnership

Lead teachers in subjects scaled back their Action Plans to take account of the changes. There was also particular impact on the implantation of the SDP and strategic work through the industrial action in the school.

We started assessing the impact of the SDP with the children, too. Our feedback from the children was a good insight to how they feel within the school as well as helping us set a focus for the coming SDP.



The feedback for 2023, above, was generated from the responses the children gave to our annual survey. It also indicated the importance of the relationships between staff and children in the school to ensure that children feel ready to learn.

In November 2022, the school also surveyed the staff and parents for areas to highlight within the forthcoming SDP. An abridged version of the results is available on the school website and / or on request. The feedback and data was also discussed with the District Inspector in a visit.

Use of INSET and School Development Days

The school is entitled to take 5 INSET days and 5 School Development Days within the school year. Effectively, this means that there are 10 days available for school development.

The INSET days in August are used for a range of activities:

- Update to annual Child Protection training;
- Updating GDPR Training;
- Working with assessment results;
- Working on transition between classes – information sharing;

School Development Days in the year are used for:

- Focused days for school development plan;
- ICT upskilling,
- Staff Mental Health Awareness;
- Middle Leadership training [through LeonEDU]
- Assessment analysis;
- Parent-Teacher meetings [due to ASoSA]
- Updates to literacy and numeracy

Assessment

Pupils are formally assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 (P4) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (P7). The assessments are normally carried out throughout the year, with a final 'Level' being reported in the end of year report.

Government targets recommend that the majority of children in P4 will reach Level 2 (and above) and that the majority of children in P7 will reach Level 4 (and above). It is the exception that children will reach Level 3 in Primary 4 and Level 5 in Primary 7.

There was no formal assessment, this year, in line with the DE direction. We carry out our internal assessment processes from P1 through to P7. There are standardised assessments for the P3 – P7 and reading, Literacy and Numeracy are reported from P4 to P7.

Targets for 2022-23

The Department of Education is continuing to review assessments and there is a continuing pause in completing and reporting end of Key Stage Assessments.

Premises

The school has reached its double enrolment throughout all classes. All available space is being used in the school – though we are ensuring that there are spaces available for SEN support and visiting professionals. This reduction in external space, though, continues to put pressure on the space we have available for the children to play.

This is noted, in particular, with the plans involving the moving of the double mobile classroom from the ‘top of the hill’ down to the ‘bottom playground’ which will have an even bigger impact on available space for activities. The school will make arrangements to ensure that space within the school is optimised without putting too much strain on resources.

The buildings committee of the Board of Governors inspect the building on an annual basis [with a representative of the insurance company] and highlight areas that may need attention. It is recognised that there are areas of the school building that require ongoing maintenance, however, given the proximity of the beginning of the new build, the governors are delaying any substantial works until certainty has been granted in regards to a start date.

Accessibility

The premises are generally accessible to all people. We have made and will continue to make necessary adjustments to take account of children and adults with particular needs.

Security

The school has a security camera system that monitors the front entrance to the school and the accessible area at the back gate. There is a buzzer entry system for both the pupil entrance and the main entrance. All visitors must sign in and are given a visitor’s badge. They are also given a leaflet explaining some key child protection policies and procedure.

Security for the SPiM will also be addressed as arrangements will need to be made to ensure that the safety of the children within the provision is considered. There will also need to be ‘regulated access’ through the outdoor play area to ensure that this is accessible as well as being secure.

Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2023

School's budget for 2022-2023	
Surplus carried forward	£240,591
Department of Education Grants	£2,092,862
Other Operating Income	£21,604
Total Resources available to school	£2,114,466
Total Expenditure	£2,124,694
Reserves / Balance Carried Forward	£230,363

A full copy of the school's end-of-year audited accounts is available on request from the school.

Limited Company Accounts

Latest accounts dated year ended 31st March 2023. The balance for the financial year was £29,493

Finally, the Governors would like to express their thanks to everyone associated with Millennium in any capacity to make it a continued success.