

RODDENSVALE SCHOOL



**THE GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT
TO PARENTS**

2017-2018

EDUCATION AUTHORITY - NORTH-EASTERN REGION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Parent

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Governors' Annual Report on Roddensvale School. It is our intention to provide you with information about your child's progress, the nature of the school and its management. The Board of Governors has carried out the duties delegated to it under the Education Reform Order and is managing with the Principal and Staff of the school, to provide the best possible education for your children.

We welcome the opportunity to invite you to attend the Annual Parents' Meeting at which this report will be discussed.

If you require further information or clarification on any aspect of the report we should be grateful if you would forward your request in writing to the Secretary before the meeting.

I commend this report for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. Maxwell
CHAIRPERSON



RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNORS

As a result of the 1989 Education Reform Order, Governors have been given responsibility for the overall management of the school. The Term of Office for this Board of Governors will end in Spring 2018 (this has been delayed). One of the responsibilities is to provide parents with Information about the school through the issue of a Prospectus, Annual Report and the holding of an Annual Parents' Meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Annual Report of the Board of Governors



MEMBERSHIP OF RODDENVALE SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2017 - 2018

OFFICE BEARERS

Chairperson	Mrs M Maxwell
Vice-Chairperson	Mr J Doherty
Secretary	Mr J Madden

PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs D Stewart
Mrs L Veal (elected September 2018)

EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr J Doherty
Mr D Hunter
Mr G Kerr
Mr W Rutherford

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs J Millar
Mrs M Maxwell

TEACHERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs M Howie
(Retired Aug 2018)
Mrs H Stewart (New Teacher representative)

PRINCIPAL

Mr J Madden (non-voting)

RECORDER OF MINUTES

Mrs H Stewart (Vice-Principal)



MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to provide the most appropriate education for our pupils within a safe environment, which promotes respect for self and others and acknowledges the value of each individual within the school community and beyond.

AIMS

1. To provide pupils with a stimulating, challenging and supportive learning environment in which confidence, motivation and success are cultivated.
2. To develop through the Northern Ireland Curriculum and alternative teaching strategies a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
3. To encourage involvement of and provide support for parents.
4. To collaborate with other professionals involved with the pupils in order to meet their needs.
5. To equip pupils with life and social skills, to promote independence within school and the community.
6. To continually embrace professional development and apply these opportunities to extend the educational experience of pupils.
7. To make learning an enjoyable process for pupils and staff.

'A Special School for Special People'



SCHOOL DIARY 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER 2017



- Counselling for pupils recommenced with Lillian Neill.
- Music Therapy by Selina Smyth commenced.
- Specialist Art (Art of this World) commenced with Kim McCausland
- Fundamental Skills commenced through the IFA
- The Shared Education Signature Project (SESP) commenced with Larne High School and St Killian's College
- Replay Theatre worked with Multi-Sensory Pupils on 12th and 13th September. The money for this performance was through a donation from Chain FM Larne's local radio station.
- Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a course at Stranmillis University 'Number Talk'
- Mrs Tania Marshall continued her course in Play Therapy.
- The school Choir took part in a fundraiser for the 'NI Children's Hospice'
- Children from the Transition Group went on a four-day residential in Bushmills Educational Centre.
- A Student Council meeting was held to plan for Shared Education

OCTOBER 2017



- Mrs Marian Humphrey and Mrs Maeve Donnelly provided Makaton training for school staff in Larne Schools.
- Staff held a coffee morning for the 'NI Children's Hospice'
- A Harvest Assembly was held and food was collected for Larne Foodbank
- Miss Rebecca Gwynne and Miss Jenny Kitson attended a course on Middle Management.
- Parents and Friends held their AGM on the 11th October.
- Mrs Mary Howie attended an Eco Group cluster.
- School held a yellow day for 'Mental Health'
- Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a Numeracy Course hosted by CCEA in Antrim EA Centre.
- Casey's Creatures brought to school a variety of animals for all classes in school to see.
- Mr Paul Robinson raised £10,000 for school funds. The money was raised through a solo sail around Ireland. The money purchased the new Interactive Projector and sensory equipment.



- NSPCC held an assembly for pupils in Senior School.
- Junior School started Yoga with Victoria.
- Mrs Marian Humphrey and Mrs Maeve Donnelly held a Makaton workshop for parents.
- The Music Yard provided a programme for Transition Pupils.
- Mrs Avril Napier attended a course on resilience.
- Mr Graham Hawthorn attended a course in CCEA.
- Halloween Disco for all pupils.
- School finished on 27th October for half term.

NOVEMBER 2017



- Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a course in Middletown Centre of Autism.
- Annual Reviews were held for all statemented pupils.
- School held a Christmas card competition for all pupils.
- The Community dentist came to visit school.
- Audiology visited selected pupils.
- Three Stranmillis Students were in for an observation week.
- Mrs Marian Humphrey's attended a course in CCEA.
- The School Council through Shared Education had an ETI visit.
- Miss Jenny Kitson and Miss Rebekah McKinley attended a 'Primary Movement' course in Belfast.
- A representative from ASDA spoke to pupils about becoming 'Community Champions'
- We had a fundraising day "Yellow for Pudsey".
- Mr John Madden attended a Principal conference.
- Team Teach mop up for new members of staff in Antrim Board Centre.
- The school choir took part in a NI Children's Hospice.
- Mrs Heather Stewart attended the Vice Principal Conference.
- Scripture Union had RE lessons for pupils in Classes 4,5,6,7 and Transitions taken by Anita and Caroline.
- All staff were offered the 'Flu' vaccine.
- The Transition group took part in a joint art project with Gilaroo Lodge Nursing Home.
- The School Choir sang in 1st Larne Presbyterian for NI Children's Hospice.
- The PFA Craft Fair was held in the school from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
- The School choir sang at Ballygally Community Association Lunch.



DECEMBER 2017



- Miss Jenny Kitson attended a Literacy Course in Antrim Board Centre.
- Mrs Mary Howie with a group of selected pupils planted trees.
- The school choir sang as part of the opening night of 'Jingle all the way' in Larne Town Centre.
- The choir sang at 'Carols by Candlelight' in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast for the NSPCC.
- Mr Graham Hawthorn and Ms Claire McGuinness attended a course on mutism in association with Middletown Centre of Autism.
- Roddensvale pupils put on a wonderful Christmas Nativity on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December. This was a great success and enjoyed by all.
- The school choir sang at Gloucester Park Day Centre.
- The Campus Carol Service was held in 1st Larne Presbyterian on Sunday 10th December with the School choir taking part.
- The staff and pupils raised funds for Text Santa by wearing a Christmas jumper on the 14th December, during the Christmas lunch.
- The choir sang at Killcregan Open Farm.
- The choir sang in ASDA and Senior Moments.
- We had a Christmas disco and visit from Santa.

JANUARY 2018



- Pupils in Classes 6,7,8 and Transitions attended the Pantomime in the Grand Opera House Belfast.
- Woman's Aid took an Assembly for pupils in classes 4,5,6,7,8.
- Mrs Mary Howie and selected pupils took part in a 'Grass Roots' programme through 'Eco Schools'
- Woman's Aid provided a 6-week programme for pupils in KS2 up. 'Bully Busters' classes 6,7,8. Relationships Transitions Group.
- Miss Rebekah McKinley attended a course in Antrim EA Centre on 'Beginning Teachers'
- Mr Madden attended a Special School Principal meeting.
- Stranmillis University students visited as part of their alternative placement.
- Mrs Howie attended a Sport's Festival with Class 8 and the Transition Group.
- Selected staff (Mrs Maeve Donnelly, Mrs Jane Montgomery, Miss Rebecca Gwynne, Miss Rebecca Pattison, Mrs Gillian Cronnie, Mrs Amanda McAfee and Mrs Sarah Waddell) attended 'Rebound Training' in school for two days.



- Mrs Heather Stewart, Mrs Avril Napier, Mr Graham Hawthorne and Mrs Tania Marshall complete a baseline assessment for pupils and staff.
- Staff enjoyed a session from David Lyttle counsellor.
- Mrs Laura Killock and Miss Rebecca Gwynne attended a Shared Education course entitled 'Play Based Learning'
- Mrs Heather Stewart attended a Vice Principal meeting in 'Castle Tower'
- Mr Brendan McAfee lead a 'Team Teach' course

FEBRUARY 2018



- Student council held a meeting
- The Student Council organised a Kindness week.
- The Livestock and Meat Commission held a cookery demonstration on 6th February for classes 6, 7,8 and Transition Group.
- Mr Graham Hawthorne attended a CCEA course in Cookstown.
 - Replay Theatre delivered a sensory story for the Multi-Sensory Classes.
 - Mr John Madden and Mrs Heather Stewart attended a meeting on GDPR (new data collection legislation)
 - Miss Jenny Kitson and Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a Women's Aid course in the Dunsilly Hotel 'Helping Hands'
 - A Makaton session was held for pupils from Larne Grammar School, St Killian's College and Larne High School.
 - Mr Brendan McAfee lead a course on 'Team Teach'

MARCH 2018



- World Book Day was celebrated and everyone dressed up.
- Pupils completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh attended a residential for 4 days with Castle Tower School.
- Pupils attended a Science Day in St Killian's School through Shared Education.
- A Gospel Concert was held in memory of Brooke Harvey to raise money for NI Children's Hospice and Roddensvale School.
- Mrs Avril Napier attended a course on Mental Health.
- Makaton training was held for pupils through Shared Education.
- The official opening of the Hydrotherapy Pool was held on Thursday 15th March.



- The School Council went to the headquarters of Mid and East Antrim Council for a tour and seeing what the council does.
- Mr John Madden attended a Principals meeting.
- School celebrated St Patrick's Day by wearing green.
- Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a Numeracy Cluster in Riverside School
- Mrs Mary Howie and Miss Jenny Kitson held a Sport's Relief Fun Day.
- Miss Becky Gwynne attended Duke of Edinburgh training
- Bertie McCauley presented a cheque to school. This was from a donation in lieu of flowers.
- Miss Jenny Kitson attended a Literacy Cluster in Riverside School.
- The school choir sang at a NI Hospice evening.
- School finished at 12 noon for Easter on Wednesday 28th March.

APRIL 2018



- School was closed for an Exceptional Closure on Monday 9th April. The school assessment team looked at a new assessment scheme, a Makaton refresher was held for staff Mrs Laura Killough, Mrs Maeve Donnelly and Mrs Marion Humphreys taking this. Mr John Madden and Mrs Heather Stewart facilitated an open morning for parents to visit the Hydrotherapy Pool.
- Miss Jenny Kitson attended a Literacy cluster in Riverside School.
- School held a 2 day 'Move' training programme for Multi-Sensory staff and Junior Classes in school.
- A new shed arrived for our Play Based Learning area. Thank you to Quay Bikes and Brooklyn Sheds.
- Mr Madden attended a Larne Education Community Meeting.
- Mrs Jane Montgomery taught RE lessons through Shared Education for selected pupils.
- School took possession of a new Defibrillator.
- 'Cool for School Photographs' came to take pictures of pupils and staff.
- Mr Brendon McAfee and Mrs Gillian McKillion attended a meeting in Greenmount Agricultural College on Eco Schools.
- Mrs Mary Howie and a group of selected classes attended a 'Grass Roots' programme in Dixon Park Larne for 10 weeks.
- On Friday 27th April, the School Choir entered Larne Music Festival and won their class.
- The School Choir sang at a church service in Ballycarry Presbyterian Church.



May 2018



- Mrs Mary Howie and selected pupils took part in an Ulster Wildlife Programme in School.
- The chair of the Special Education Nurse Consultation visited Roddensvale Nursery to talk to staff.
- Roddensvale Hilly 100 took place on 6th May.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Gold group went on a practice walk in the Mourne Mountains.
- A Pub Quiz was held in Ruby's for School Funds.
- Roddensvale School held a Nursery Provision Consultation for Parents and EA North Eastern Regional staff.
- A pupil in Class 6 received his Holy Communion with St MacNissi's Primary School.
- Mrs Mary Howie attended a Shared Education PE day.
- Sport's Day for pupils and parents was held on Wednesday 16th May.
- IRF Ulster Branch held Tag rugby training for selected pupils.
- Armagh Planetarium visited school
- The Lord Lieutenant Mrs Joan Christie presented the awards and prizes at Prize Day. She also presented a new cup for 'kindness'. The school choir and Makaton choir provided the entertainment.
- A STEM workshop was held for Senior School Pupils.
- Mrs Mary Howie attended a football tournament with selected pupils.

June 2018



- Mrs Sarah Waddell attended a Numeracy Cluster in 'Castle Tower' School.
- The School 'Fete' was held on Saturday 2nd June.
- The Community Dentist visited school for 2 days and screened all pupils.
- The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Group went to the Lake District for 5 days. Thank you to Miss Rebecca Gwynne and her team. All pupils passed their walk and will receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh in the future.
- Mr Graham Hawthorne (Class 8) and Mrs Judith Smyth (Class 7) attended a Science Day in St Killian's School.
- A Numeracy assembly was held to celebrate Numeracy throughout the year.
- On Saturday 9th June, a Volunteer's Day was held for parents and friends to help with odd jobs around the outside of school.
- On Monday 11th June, the Transition Group held a coffee afternoon for past pupils. Everyone loved seeing them come back.



- Staff were invited to the 'CentrePoint' Larne and the AEL programme to hear what they do and how Roddensvale pupils benefit.
- A pupil Stacey Brennan took part in the Special Olympics in Dublin. She was part of Team Ulster.
- The Music Yard Larne visited the Transition Group.
- Mrs Avril Napier took a group of selected pupils on a Geography field trip to study a river. This was through Shared Education.
- Mrs Mary Howie took a group of selected pupils on a PE Day through Shared Education.
- On Friday 15th June, we said goodbye to a group of 5 pupils at Assembly.
- Mrs Mary Howie took a group of pupils to Stormont Estate for an Eco Group meeting.
- Classes M1 and M2 heard a special sensory Story by Tale Time- Nurturing Stories.
- The School Choir sang at Ballyclare Fold.
- Mr John Madden and Mrs Heather Stewart attended a meeting about the School Enhancement Programme. The school is to receive a £4 Million-pound new build.
- Miss Rebekah McKinley took a group of selected pupils for a beach clean in Ballygalley.
- The annual School BBQ was held in School this year. Selina (School Music Therapist) and The Music Yard provided the entertainment.
- On Friday 22nd June School held a Language Day. This year the language was 'German'. A special thank you to Dr Reid from Larne High School. He taught a language class for pupils in senior school, taught us all numbers, colours and a special song. Yvonne (school cook) cooked us a lovely German Meal.
- Mrs Jane Montgomery took a group of pupils to visit the different churches around Larne as part of the RE Shared Education Programme.
- Roddensvale's Got Talent was held on Thursday 28th June.
- Staff said goodbye to Mrs Mary Howie and Mrs Roberta McIlwraith.
- School finished for Summer on Friday 29th June at 12 Noon.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT RODDENSVALE

The ethos of the school P.E. programme is to combine physical activity and health with fun. We are also now very aware of the mental wellbeing and emotional benefits of exercise and being outdoors so aim to encourage as many opportunities as possible within school.

Our **Physical Education** sessions continued as usual, with all classes involved in planned physical activity. As well as the planned lessons, all pupils were encouraged to take as much exercise as possible daily; using the soft play room, walking to and from the local park or going for a walk during the weekly bus outings. Some classes had a short daily walk written into their timetable. Younger pupils enjoyed using the Gym Time equipment in the hall, with its range of climbing and balancing equipment. Outdoor play (running, climbing, cycling, Tag Rugby coaching started in the summer term for some of the senior pupils

Swimming continued a weekly basis, each class from Class 5 upwards enjoying 16 weeks of swimming at Larne Leisure Centre. Class/pupils also have the opportunity to avail of sessions in the school hydrotherapy pool.

Once again we were able to avail of the expertise of Daniel Lafferty from the IFA who delivered another excellent year of fundamental skills coaching for most pupils.

The **Transitions Class** follow their own programme which combines physical activity with health promotion lessons. During terms 1 and 2, Mondays were spent at Larne High School, in the mornings for circuits while football sessions were organised in school after lunch. In term 3 the morning session was spent swimming in Larne Leisure centre. When appropriate, pupils would walk to and from the various venues.

Between November 2017 and May 2018 many pupils took part in various **competitions:**

New Age Kurling at The Antrim Forum in November 2017

Boccia at Antrim Forum in January 2018

Sports Hall Athletics at Lisburn Leisureplex in March 2018.

We had success for the Primary aged team in the New Age Kurling competition who won Silver but unfortunately the Sports Hall Athletics was cancelled in



March due to heavy snow and we were unable to take part in the re-scheduled event on 29th May due to our annual Prize Giving.

Our Junior and Senior **football** teams travelled to Lisburn in May 2018 and played in the IFA Cornmarket Insurance Football competition. Our Senior team played extremely well, getting through to the semi-finals, but lost in the end 1-3. Although disappointed they we very pleased with their silver medals.

Sports Day was held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 and much fun was had by all. The pupils, divided into 9 teams, played 9 games for 3 minutes each, encouraged by fellow pupils, staff and parents. This year a number of students from link schools in the Larne Learning Community came along and helped out. 9 volunteers joined the teams and helped the pupils. It was great fun and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their day!

Tag Rugby coaching started in the summer term again for some of the senior pupils. Martin, from Ulster Rugby, provided 4 excellent sessions over the 4 week period which pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

Parklife was a 20 week physical activity scheme organised by Niall Curneen from Mid and East Antrim Council aimed at local schools and residents from The Roddens area, which encouraged people young and old to use and enjoy their local amenities and at the same time improve their physical and mental health. He hoped the project would become intergenerational and selected Dixon Park on The Roddens. Initially everyone walked 4 laps around the park at their own pace. As time passed he included little physical activities at the end of each lap. Eventually a little planting would be included - hoping to encourage a feeling of pride/ownership of the park.

This was an excellent project; its success being that some classes used the Parklife idea by having their P.E. lessons in the park.

P.E. continued to develop in the Shared Education Signature Programme. 12pupils along with groups from St.Killions , Larne Grammar School and Larne High travelled to Larne Leisure Centre to appreciate Cultural diversity by playing a variety of sports from all traditions – Rugby, Hurling, Boccia and New Age Kurling. Pupils were divided into 3 groups, enabling them all to mix and help each other.

Our second outing was to Larne Grammar School in May 2018 and mixed teams took part in team building games, working and helping each other to solve problems using ropes, barrels, planks and logs. Good fun was had by all.



Gardening, as a physical activity, is also included for some pupils.

RDA; Selected pupils availed of Riding for the Disabled in Ballyclare. The children attended in small groups. This programme helped support children's posture, balance and walking.

Donkey Sanctuary; Pupils from class 1-5 attended the Donkey Sanctuary. This year they took part in the Donkey Facilitated Learning Programme. This programme was child lead. The children worked with the donkey grooming, walking and feeding them. This was a great sensory experience for all the children involved.



LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

In the course of any school year many people come to our school. There are those who visit us on a regular basis - like the Doctor, the Dentist. There are those parents and friends who give their valuable time to help with the Toy House and horse-riding. There are parents and young children from the community who come along to our School Toy House. Numerous pupils/students come to the school from local mainstream Schools/Colleges for Work Experience.

We are proud to say that our students (16-19) continue to go out into the community for Work Experience, e.g. School Meals Kitchen, Acceptable Enterprises, Junior School classes, School Office and other settings.



**LARNE
LEARNING
COMMUNITY**

Roddensvale School continued to be part of the Larne Learning Community and played an active role throughout the 2017/2018 school year. We completed modules in OCN Personal

Progress and Independent Living (Personal Care) in collaboration with the Northern Regional College. OCR Life and Living Skills was continued as part of the Transitions curriculum. Transitions pupils also continued to use the café at Centrepoint. Links with Larne Grammar School continued with pupils integrating with the Grammar school pupils and pupils from Larne Grammar, Larne High School and St Killian's College assisting with Sports Day. We also ran another Makaton Enrichment Programme with students from Larne High School, Larne Grammar School and St Killian's College working alongside students from Roddensvale School to learn a range of basic Makaton signs.





Roddensvale School is involved in year three of the Shared Education Signature Project with Larne High School and St Killian's College and, for the first time, Larne Grammar School. This year pupils took part in shared learning experiences through RE, Science, PE, Makaton and Student Council. This included a trip to the Braid centre, a tour of local churches and a number of PE and activity based ice-breaker sessions. The partnership is moving from strength to strength. The partnership had an ETI interim assessment in November 2017 which confirmed that the partnership is evaluating their collaboration effectively; encouraging more pupil participation in learning opportunities from Roddensvale pupils.



GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL 2017-2018

The school continues to receive donations from the local community for the School Gift Account. These donations are very much appreciated and are a means of providing additional equipment and experiences for the pupils.

The Gift Account Book is independently audited each year. The book is kept in the school and is available on request.

As in all years, there will be movement across Income and Expenditure including School Photographs, Residential for Senior School pupils at Bushmills, legacy money specifically earmarked for the building of a Music Room; and is not solely School Gift Money but also includes money received as part of Grant applications that is earmarked for specific projects and initiatives.



Gift Account 2017-2018

Income for the year 2017-2018: £32,516.51

Expenditure for the year 2017-2018: £80,668.27

Bank Balance on 30th June 2018: £242.20
(after all outstanding debts)

Cash in hand on 30th June 2018: £125.30

During the 2017-2018 Roddensvale School applied for and received different grants which helped and supported the different activities carried out within the classroom and school community.

The totals listed above include: grants awarded, monthly remittance from Northern Health and Social Care Trust for the development of early intervention initiatives; a legacy donation for the building of a music room.



STAFF 2017-2018

Principal	1
Vice-Principal	1
Teachers	10+ 7 job-shares
Classroom Assistants	31+ 3 job-shares (6 p/t)
Bus Escorts	10 part-time
Clerical Officers	1 job-share
Lunchtime Sup. Assts.	5 + 1 temporary
Building Supervisor	1
Assistant Building Supervisor	1 part time
Cleaning Staff	5 part-time
Cook	1 part-time
Canteen Staff	2 part-time
Bus Drivers	3 full-time & 5 part-time
Physiotherapist	1 part-time
Physiotherapy Assistant	1 part-time
Occupational Therapist	2 part-time
Speech Therapist	2 part time
Speech Therapist Assistant	1 part-time
Music Therapist	1 part-time
Family Support Worker	1 part- time



SCHOOL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 - 2018

Staff continues to review all subject areas of the N. I. Curriculum. Teaching staff work on the School Development Plan every Tuesday from 3.00pm - 4.00pm

PASTORAL CARE POLICY & PRACTICE

This document is based on Every School a Good School (DE 2009) and sets out our school's policy and practice in relation to the care of pupils and the promotion of an environment where pupils and staff from both Education and Health work collaboratively to develop personal qualities such as self-confidence, independence, resourcefulness and self-discipline and to develop the whole child - socially, intellectually, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Child centred provision

At Roddensvale School we aim to meet the needs and aspirations of the pupils within the school through a multi-disciplinary approach. Teachers, Classroom Assistants, Allied Health Professionals, Parents, the Board of Governors and other non-teaching staff work together in liaison with external agencies as appropriate to provide excellent learning and teaching where the pupils reach their maximum potential at whatever level this may be. Opportunities for pupils to experience success in a variety of contexts is provided, and hard work, endeavour and progress is praised and celebrated throughout the school.

We promote equality of opportunity, high quality learning, a concern for individual pupils and a respect for diversity. The school provides and follows:

- UNCRC principles and Articles
- A purpose built building with equipment to meet the needs of all pupils
- Counselling for pupils in the Senior School

We seek to meet the additional education and other needs of pupils and to help them overcome barriers to learning by:

- Promoting good attendance
- Promoting positive behaviour
- Meeting the needs of each pupil as an individual through Individual Education Plans produced in collaboration with Allied Health Professionals
- Promotion of communication for all pupils through Intensive Interaction, verbal, Makaton, PECS, choice boards and ICT technology such as Big Macks and GoPoint
- Development of attention to adult-led activities through Attention Autism
- Working closely with the Learning Disability Teams from Social Services (Children's and Adult's) to ensure all pupils, including Looked After Children, are given access to education and equipment needed to access this
- Working closely with the outreach teaching service for pupils with a visual impairment (Jordanstown School)

We believe in and support pupil participation and involvement in decisions about school life. We do this through:

- UNCRC - Articles 12 and 13



- Circle Time / Class Meetings
- School Council
- Eco Council
- Pupil feedback to teachers about teaching and learning and school (links to AfL) through Pupil Contributions for Annual Review and Pupil Progress Files/School Leavers Yearbook
- Teaching about decision making at a very basic level early on, e.g. making choices at break or play time. This teaches about decision making, allows pupils' choice and can be developed throughout school.
- Class rules are set and agreed by pupils
- School Choir and the Makaton Sign and Sing Choir
- Work experience

We work closely with pupils, parents, Allied Health Professionals, Social Services and the Education Authority (North Eastern Region) Transition Service to assist with:

- Transition to post-19 provision
- Transition to another school or Learning Support Unit through the provision of starting school booklets, integration opportunities, meetings and sharing of information

The school follows child protection guidelines fully.

- Children know about keeping safe through the “Helping Hands Programme”, RSE and citizenship in classes and work in collaboration with the PSNI, DoE and Social Services on topics such as Stranger Danger and Road Safety
- Staff training
- Parents all receive a copy of the Child Protection Policy, Use of Digital Images Policy and consent for photographs and Facebook
- Parents and other volunteers in the school are vetted through Access NI and follow a set of guidelines for volunteers working in the school
- Visitors are required to sign in and out on the new electronic visitor entry system, wear visitor badges and are accompanied by staff when in the school

We support children in making healthy choices and through the provision of a healthy environment. We do this by:

- Having 4 members of staff who are trained in First Aid. All other staff receive annual training on First Aid basics
- Having Health and Safety procedures that are tested regularly. These include weekly testing of the fire alarm, fire drill at least once a term, risk assessments for different activities and areas, all doors and outer playground gates secured with keypads
- Are a healthy eating school - healthy breaks are offered in the Junior School and a healthy tuck shop runs in the Senior School. Pupils are offered water or milk at lunch and all school dinners follow strict nutritional guidelines
- Each class has weekly PE slots and opportunities are offered for fundamental skills, tennis, football, Yoga and basketball coaching, swimming, Special Olympics games and involvement in competitions such as Sports Hall Athletics, New Age Kurling, football and Boccia
- Body Awareness and OT sensory integration programmes are followed in classes
- Play areas have been built and extended
- Tricycles and bicycles for all ages and sizes are provided for use in the enclosed area outside and inside
- Healthy lifestyles are promoted through the School Reading Scheme (KS3) and pupils are encouraged to make healthy choices in cafes and in cookery. Tooth-brushing is promoted throughout the school.
- Lessons on Health and Healthy Eating are provided in the Senior School



- Local leisure facilities are used, e.g. Larne Leisure Centre and the Cliff Centre/Larne high School PE hall on a weekly basis
- Walking group in School Leavers. This encourages a reduced reliance on school transport and promotes health
- School Counsellor is available for all pupils in the Senior School. Pupils can self-refer or be referred by staff or parents
- Pupils are encouraged and supported to develop hobbies and interests
- Offering Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes and opportunities for SLG pupils to take part in a multi-activity residential at Bushmills Outdoor Education Centre
- Play Therapy offered from primary aged pupils by referrals from staff/parents

High quality teaching and learning

We provide a broad and relevant curriculum as is evidenced by:

- Scheme of work for PDMU and Personal Development that meets the needs of our pupils
- Timetabling and other arrangements to deliver an effective PDMU/PD curriculum (including RSE), and other related areas of learning e.g. RE and Physical Development
- Specific programmes relating to health and wellbeing e.g. Cycling Proficiency, Heartstart

We promote positive relationships between teachers, classroom assistants and their pupils and with other school-based staff through:

- Good relationships in class - class rewards and sanctions
- Staff working together to provide integration opportunities between classes for leisure and for work
- Celebration of achievements
- Staff Code of Conduct
- 'Open door' policy for pupils to come and discuss any worries with members of staff

Teachers use a range of teaching strategies that respond to the diversity within the classroom such as:

- Circle Time/Class meetings
- Collaborative learning (Targets are set in collaboration with Allied Health Professionals)
- Developing personal capabilities - self management and working with others
- Flexible approach to teaching, i.e. 1-1 work, group work and promoting independent learning
- Play Based and Activity Based Learning opportunities are used alongside visual approaches and multimedia to take account of the different learning styles, e.g. kinaesthetic, visual
- Visual schedules to assist pupils with ASD or challenging behaviour
- TEACCH to help pupils with ASD structure their day and understand their environment, helping them access learning
- Sensory integration opportunities built in throughout the day
- Attention Autism is used to help develop and extend concentration and help pupils with ASD focus on adult-directed activities
- Makaton is used to augment verbal communication and PECS/choice boards are used to help individual pupils communicate their needs and wants.
- Augmentative Communication Devices and adaptive technologies are used to help pupils access the curriculum
- Flexible groups suited to the needs of individual pupils, working at a pace that suits the pupil
- Individual, flexible timetables for pupils with challenging behaviour or sensory needs
- Integration with other classes in-school or with other schools to extend learning



- Opportunities for Sensory Integration and Intensive Interaction are built in throughout the day in response to individual pupil need. This includes the use of Tac Pac, a tactile communication system used to aid sensory needs and develop communication.
- Individual Behaviour Intervention Programmes, taking account of individual need
- Programmes to aid physical development and to assist learning through the reduction of reflexes are used. These include Primary Movement, Body Awareness and MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education)

Teachers reflect on their own work and the outcomes of individual pupils through:

- Use of staff planning/staff meetings/ monitoring arrangements relating to teaching and learning and pupil progress and achievement in relevant areas of the curriculum such as PDMU/Personal Development
- Collaborative meetings with parents, Allied Health Professionals and school staff to discuss progress and development
- Classroom observation and assessment of pupils' personal development and behaviour
- Class teachers consideration of pastoral issues where pupil performance or behaviour has changed
- The use of assessment models such as Quest, Q-Skills and Lines of Progression

Effective leadership

Governors understand their responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils. They do this by:

- Monitoring and evaluating the strategies in place for promoting pastoral care, health, well-being and attendance, contained in the School Development Plan, including consulting with the School Council/ pupils and parents
- Child Protection training and role
- Monitoring the reporting of behaviour, suspension and exclusion
- Attending training on appropriate areas, e.g. Child Protection and CRED

In relation to pastoral care we support the professional development of staff and sharing and learning from best practice by:

- INSETs, Exceptional Closure days for pastoral matters
- Teachers with additional training and/or qualifications e.g. counselling, Helping Hands, Heartstart
- Sharing good practice - visits to other schools, hosting visits by other schools
- Relevant school awards and accreditation e.g. Heartstart

We provide the resources needed to support pastoral care through:

- Effective staff deployment - specialist roles
- Classroom resources
- Areas indoors and outdoors for sensory integration
- Play resources and facilities
- Specialist rooms/areas for nurture, small group etc
- Access/signposting to external resources e.g. pupil counselling
- Home-school diaries
- Adults trained to meet pupils' needs
- An "open door" policy



We monitor and evaluate our pastoral care practices in a number of ways:

Through reviewing the school's performance regularly in the preparation of the School Development Plan

- Specific monitoring/evaluative duties of individual staff with responsibilities e.g. the curriculum leader for PDMU/PD, Pastoral Care Coordinator
- How you use school data - SIMS modules for attendance, incidents, numbers taking free school meals, number of pupils who are Looked After
- Plenary sessions and pupil feedback to teachers about teaching and learning (links to AfL) or other areas of school life e.g. play, Bushmills Outdoor Education trip
- How the School Council is involved
- Parent questionnaires or other information gathering activities
- Feedback from pupils on Annual Review Pupil Contribution Forms

A school connected to its local community

Good relationships and communication between the school and its parents and the wider community are crucial to our pupils' health and wellbeing, learning and achievement.

These are developed by:

- Parents being made welcome in school e.g. reception area, celebrations of work and achievement, to discuss problems, etc
- Information sent home to parents: class timetable, photo books, letters, homework, upcoming trips and events
- Telephone calls, emails and home visits
- A new parental app called 'Seesaw'. Which is updated weekly with pictures from class.
- Christmas concerts, Prize Day, Sports Day and Summer Fete events for parents and members of the school community
- Parents encouraged to be volunteers, visitors
- Training sessions for parents on areas related to their child's learning and development, e.g. behaviour, sensory integration and new school initiatives e.g. Seesaw and Makaton
- The work of the Parents and Friends Association
- A wide range of school documents on the school website e.g. policies, class curriculum information/guides, meeting individual need information and information on Allied Health Professionals
- School information sheets sent home and via SIMS text messages
- Daily home/school diaries and/or Big Macks
- Class coffee mornings
- Reporting to parents about their children's personal development through formal and informal means
- The school's approach to dealing with the parents of pupils with problems e.g. behaviour and attendance
- Complaints Procedure
- Integration within school and integration with other schools, e.g. Moyle Primary School, Larne High School, Larne Grammar School
- Shared learning experiences with Larne High School and St Killian's College through the Shared Education Project
- Work experience opportunities, both in-school and in the local community, e.g. Co-Op, Carnegie Library, Mums & Tots, Centrepoint (AEL), Ballygalley Community Hall
- Collaboration and sharing of expertise with staff of other schools, e.g. Moyle Primary School
- Sharing of resources and experiences, e.g. Moyle LSU use the CAVE each week, pupils attend events in other schools
- World Book Day



- Visitors to Assembly throughout the year
 - Use of local facilities, e.g. Larne Leisure Centre, library, local shops
 - Pupils fundraising for charity through a range of events
 - Use of the school Facebook page to publicise events and celebrate what is going on in Roddensvale School
 - Articles and photographs in the local press of events in-school

We have good relationships and communication between the school and the education agencies that support pupils' health and wellbeing, learning and achievement, namely:

- Education Authority Services e.g. Autism, CASS , Educational Psychology, EWO, etc
- Dual Agency Behaviour Support Service
- Clinical Psychology
- Middletown Centre for Autism

We have good links with other relevant statutory and voluntary agencies that support pupils' health and wellbeing, learning and achievement. These are:

- School Counsellor (Counselling 4 Youth)
- Allied Health Professionals
- Social Services (Children's Learning Disability Team, Adult's Services)
- Dental services, School Nurse, Medical staff
- Psychiatry
- Social Services and PSNI/Child Protection Support Service for Schools
- NSPCC, Surestart

The school is involved in specific programmes that meet the needs of the community and nearby schools. These are:

- Entitlement Framework - Larne Learning Community
- Transition (starting school, school to school, post-19)
- Early Years Project
- Early Intervention Programme (Paediatric Physiotherapy)
- Toy House
- Larne Early Education Partners
- Shared Education Project

September 2018



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

A Drugs Education Policy is a legal requirement and therefore we as a school are bound by law to provide this policy.

As a school we acknowledge the growing drugs problem within our community. We feel the majority of pupils at Roddensvale may never meet the dangers experienced by their peer groups in Mainstream Education, but, on the other hand there are always exceptions to the rule. The exceptions may be exposed to drug messages through media, associating with older children in their local neighbourhood or experiencing a lack of parental control. Therefore it is essential to ensure a consistent school approach.

PROGRAMME

Our school drugs education programme will be incorporated within the PDMU/Personal Development programmes and where appropriate within any other subject. It will be taught at a level appropriate to each individual pupil's level and will be monitored and evaluated within the school's development plan.

N.B. The detailed school policy on 'Drugs Education' may be viewed on request



