

RODDENSVALE SCHOOL



THE GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

TO PARENTS

2023-2024

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – NORTH-EASTERN REGION

CHAIRPERSON'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.

The meeting will be held on: 23rd October 2024

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 Autumn 2024. 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 2023 -

2024

OFFICE BEARERS

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

PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs R Strange
Mrs D Stewart (passed away November 2023)

EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Roy Beggs
Mr J Doherty
Mr G Kerr

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs J Millar
Mrs M Maxwell

TEACHERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs H Stewart (Vice Principal)

PRINCIPAL

Mr J Madden (non-voting)

RECORDER OF MINUTES

Mrs H Stewart (Vice-Principal)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr D Hunter (Safeguarding Governor)
Mrs K Cahoon

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 2023-2024

September 2023:



- School recommenced for all pupils on Friday 1st September.
- We welcomed two new members of staff to the teaching team and a number of new classroom assistants.
- The enrolment number now stands at 228, with 30 new pupils joining Roddensvale.
- The new Student Council was elected and were led by Mr Hawthorne.
- Jo Jingles funded by Summer Scheme money was organised by Mrs Mee.
- Joe from 'The Gathering Drum' ran a workshop for senior pupils on the 12th September.
- Mrs Wood, the school's Family Worker, organised a parents' coffee morning on the 13th September in the Lynas room.
- The Sensory Bus was on site on the 15th and was enjoyed by the ASD and Sensory classes.
- Staff took part in Team Teach training on the 18th and 26th. These sessions were run by Mr Grant and Mr McAfee.
- Mrs Linda Hamilton resigned from her work in the school office and a coffee morning was held to mark the occasion. Her post was taken up by Mrs Laura Hamilton.
- A 6-week block of sports coaching with Daniel from the IFA commenced; this was organised by Mr Grant.
- Mrs Kirkpatrick (OT) and Mrs Moorhead organised sensory circuits to be set up on a Friday afternoon for the first term for certain classes that it would benefit.
- Choir began to rehearse on a Monday afternoon in Class RG closely followed by the Makaton choir on a Thursday afternoon in Class LW.
- Horse-riding recommenced and a timetable was issued by Miss Smyth.
- The first Toy House session was organised by Miss Gwynne and ran on the 27th.

October 2023:



- The first staff wellbeing event organised by the staff in Class CW. This took place on the 4th and was a coffee afternoon.

- Elections were held in Senior Classes for the Student Council and 10 pupils were elected by their peers.
- Sarah Spence (Orthoptist) began the orthoptics sessions for specific pupils.
- The flu vaccination clinic was on the 5th for those who opted in and a mop up was held at a later date.
- A Fire Safety Officer carried out a school wide inspection on the 16th and provided feedback on compliance and suggested changes.
- Mr Madden, Mrs Stewart and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors met with Mr Knox and Mr Hutchinson from EA Transport to work on alternative parking arrangements for their staff.
- An appeal was issued for more novels and story books for older pupils. Many books were donated to the school and a note of thanks was posted.
- Harvest Assembly took place on Friday 13th October. This year we collected items to donate to the Larne Foodbank.
- The Parents and Families Association AGM was held on the 19th and overseen by Mr Hawthorne.
- A number of generous donations for hydro pool equipment were made by TME Electrical, Ashleigh McBride, The Garage Door Man N.I. and others.
- The Halloween disco, organised by the School Council, was held on the 27th of October.

November 2023:



- School recommenced on the 3rd after the Half Term break.
- Mrs Wood arranged a series of wood-crafting workshops at AEL for parents who wished to attend.
- The PFA Christmas Craft Fair ran on the 16th and raised a total of £1309.70.
- Annual Reviews were held in school between the 6th – 22nd. These were held in person, by phone call or over Teams.
- The school choir performed in the Abaana Autumn Concert at 1st Ballyclare Presbyterian Church on the 18th.
- Some of our senior school pupils took part in the Larne Credit Union art competition and were successful in their fields.
- A 4-week training program with Ulster Hockey commenced and was held on Larne High School Astro-turf pitches.
- The Eco Club, run by Mrs O'Dornan, was formed and had their first meeting in the greenhouse.

- A staff wellbeing event was held on the 15th for all staff.
- The residents of Pound Green Court raised £1000 for school funds.
- On the 28th of November pupils from Class COL went to Sunnybank Nursery to pick our Christmas tree. Each year Sunnybank Nursery generously gifts a tree to the school.

December 2023:



- The Junior School Nativity was held on the 5th of December. This year they put on a wonderful production of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel.
- This year we introduced a new initiative called “Stay and Play” for Foundation stage and ASD/Sensory classes. These were held between the 6th – 8th and were a big success.
- Year 8 health appraisals were held on the 11th and the 14th.
- The Senior School Christmas Concert took place in 1st Larne Church Hall on the 12th December for Classes JSM to Transitions Group.
- A coffee morning was held for staff to raise money for the Big C Foundation.
- Christmas Dinner was held for all pupils on Thursday the 14th and coincided with a Christmas Jumper day to raise money for the Big C Foundation.
- Departmental discos took place on the 18th December.
- Santa and the Grinch visited school on Friday 15th December.
- Mr Madden and Mrs Stewart met with members of the EA to discuss future building work.
- Pupils were given a Christmas ornament from the PFA, which was supplied by AEL.
- LFC Reds Supporters Club and Larne MOT Centre donated selection boxes for all pupils.
- The Christmas Raffle was finalised and drawn raising a total of £800. The Gault family were thanked for their very generous hamper donation.
- School closed for the Christmas holidays at noon on Wednesday the 20th.

January 2024:



- School recommenced on Wednesday 3rd January.
- A twilight was held on Tuesday 23rd during which staff held departmental meetings.
- A staff welling event was held on the 22nd, organised by the staff in Class CW.
- All staff completed their online epilepsy training, the practical section followed at a later date.
- Mrs Moorhead and Mr Grant attended a 'Better Together' session alongside other Special Schools, looking at behaviour support.
- Mrs McCandless (CLDTS) was on site meeting with Mrs Wood.
- The Big C Foundation were in school on the 16th to collect the £657.75 donation raised by staff and pupils before Christmas.
- New boilers for the hydro pool were installed, however, the changes in temperature had damaged the integrity of the pool tiles and therefore the pool needed to remain closed while they were replaced.
- The RSPB were in school to work with senior pupils on the Big Bird Watch.
- Mrs Wood ran a mindfulness session for parents on the 24th.
- School leavers' boosters were held on the 31st.
- Crossfit Larne were in school to deliver their generous £250 donation.

February 2024:



- Cairndhu Golf Club were in school to donate the £915 raised at their annual charity bowling match.
- Thomas from "The Music Yard" began visiting classes every Wednesday to take music sessions.
- We had a number of staff members leave during February. Mrs Amanda McAfee took early retirement, having been working in the school since 2010. Both Mrs Ellen Glendinning and Mrs Joanne Kitson resigned from their posts. A thank you was issued to all three upon their leaving.
- Brenda Shearer from DE was on site meeting with Mr Madden.
- Pound Green Court visited on the 8th to deliver the £1500 they had raised for school funds.
- Members of Class MD visited Larne Community Orchard on the 9th to tend to the trees they planted last year.
- The Student Council delivered friendship cards to mark Valentine's Day, co-ordinated by Mrs O'Dornan.
- School closed for Half Term from Monday 12th – Friday 16th.

- Deedee Yendall, one of our parents, visited school on the 21st to give some of the girls a haircut ahead of school photograph day.
- Tracey Woods (CSSC) was available in school on the 21st and 22nd to meet with class teams and guide them on Restorative Practice Circles.
- A number of KS3 students completed their “Listen, Learn, Lead” course with Women’s Aid and received their certificates on the 24th.
- Senior School students attended a cookery session on the 27th with Arlene from LMC.
- Dr Marie Hill, Senior Educational Psychologist, met with all staff on the 27th to deliver a staff wellbeing session.
- Mr Barry Mulholland, Chair of the EA, was on site to meet with Mr Madden and the Chair of Governors as part of the ongoing work on re-development and expansion.
- The school photographer was in on both the 26th and 27th to photograph all pupils and new staff.
- Mrs Wood ran a session on behaviour support for parents and carers on the 28th.

March 2024:



- Mr Clarke paid a visit to KS2 pupils, with his police dog, for their topic work.
- The book fair was held on the 5th for all pupils and was arranged by Mrs Szapanski. This was then followed by a dress-up day on the 8th for World Book Day.
- Gail Caldwell from ASDA was in school on the 6th to take tasting sessions with some of the pupils.
- KS2 pupils visited Larne Library for a story and to see the new sensory space on the 12th.
- Mrs Wood ran a coffee morning for parents and carers on the 12th.
- EA released an additional £65k to be used by the end of the month on capital items. We purchased new iPads, CleverTouch screens, sensory equipment and new outdoor sandpit sheds.
- Tracey Woods (CSSC) ran a Level 2 Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) training on the 6th and 13th for all staff.
- Mrs Claire Stewart joined the team in the office on a Thursday and Friday.
- School was closed for St Patrick’s Day on Monday 18th. Pupils were invited to wear green on Friday 15th to celebrate.
- As part of the 60th celebrations Mrs Moorhead organised a “60 miles for 60 years” fundraiser. The donations for this were collated and came to over £3000.

- It was confirmed that there will be an extension of 4 new classes to be added to the Larne High Base.
- On Thursday 21st we marked Down Syndrome Awareness Day by inviting staff and pupils to wear odd socks.
- Déjà vu Promotions and Ruby Bodega Larne donated a box of Easter treats for the pupils.
- Larne Walker Club ABOD were in school to make a generous donation of £560.
- School closed for Easter at noon on Wednesday 27th.

April 2024:



- Janis Scallon (DE) visited to discuss SEP scheme and progression of Minor Works.
- Both hockey and sports coaching resumed for selected pupils.
- Janet Crymbal began art session for the senior pupils.
- An internal trawl was sent out for a new TA3 post (Head of Pupil Support), and the subsequent interviews conducted. Mrs Moorhead was successful in being appointed to this post.
- Teaching interviews took place on the 16th and 17th. We welcomed 4 new full-time members of staff who will take up their posts in September 2024.
- The Makaton choir performed for Cairncastle Presbyterian Friendship Group on Tuesday 16th.
- We celebrated Language Day on the Friday 19th. This year we chose German, and classes had the chance to wear German colours, sing German songs in assembly and sample the cuisine at lunchtime. This was organised by Mrs Morrow.
- Timmy Mallett visited with the Transitions Group during his fundraising cycle around the UK and Ireland on the 24th.
- Senior pupils took part in a fundraising static cycle at Lusty's Centra Larne on the 19th and 3rd May. They raised £417.68 for their endeavours.
- The final "Getting Ready to Learn" session took place in the Nursery on the 23rd, led by Miss Smyth.
- The choir sang at Ballyclare Fold on the 23rd.
- Mrs Kirkpatrick (OT) ran an information session on the 24th for parents and carers on sleep.
- The Splash Project began in the memorial garden. The raised beds and steps were removed to create space for a sensory area to be installed.
- Larne Music Festival took place on the 26th. Both the Makaton choir and school choir were entered in the competition and were successful in winning both their categories.

- The hydro pool refurbishment was completed, and the water was brought back up to temperature ready for use.

May 2024:



- The Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Gerardine Mulvenna, attended Friday morning assembly on the 3rd.
- School was closed for the bank holiday weekend on the 6th and 7th.
- HPV vaccines were held in the Lynas Room on the 8th.
- The football team attended the Valley Leisure Centre on the 9th for the MLD National Games organised by the IFA. They played a total of 7 games.
- Conor Mervyn from the EA Sensory Service visited with some of our pupils on the 9th.
- Mr Madden held the annual Hilly 100 charity cycle on the 12th raising around £2000.
- The community dentist was on site to visit with classes and pupils on the 13th, 14th and 17th.
- The P1 health appraisals were held on the 14th and 15th.
- Haldane Fisher Larne held a sweepstake of the Premier League over the season and donated the £515 raised towards school funds.
- The Marshalls (family of Charlie Marshall) made a generous donation of £250.
- The joint special schools formal was held on the 23rd, in Galgorm Resort.
- On the 24th we held a Family Fun Day to celebrate the 60th anniversary. Hodges Butchers kindly donated all the meat for the BBQ.
- Class JSM made a trip to Valdez Gymnastics Club, in Ballymena, on the 28th.
- Our final charity of the year was Tiny Life. A coffee morning was held for staff on the 30th, followed by a PJ Day on the 31st for staff and pupils. A total of £305 was raised.

June 2024:



- On the 4th we held our prize giving ceremony at which the Makaton and school choirs performed. The parents of prize winners attended, and special guest Chris McNaughton presented the awards.
- 5 teachers were appointed at TA2 level as Heads of Departments: Miss Gwynne; Mrs Napier; Mrs Best; Mr McAfee and Mrs Leslie. Mrs Janet Campbell was successful in her application for the Class JSM job share.
- Junior Sports Day was held on the 5th and 6th for the Nursery, ASD, Foundation and KS1 departments.
- Puberty talks were by Mrs O’Leary and Mrs Napier on the 7th for pupils in Classes COL up to Class JSM.
- Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Donnelly ran a Makaton training course for students from Larne High School, Larne Grammar School and St Killian’s College.
- 4 new temporary members of staff were appointed to cover the upcoming maternity leaves.
- The staff induction for Summer Scheme 2024 was held on Monday the 10th.
- The school paid host to Attention Autism training which ran in the hall on the 11th and the 20th. Four teachers from Roddensvale School attended.
- The Nursery graduated on the 11th. Parents were in school to celebrate the occasion.
- As an end of year treat for some classes, inflatables were brought in from the 12th to the 14th and set up in the Assembly Hall.
- Senior Sports Day was held on the 14th at Larne High School and parents were invited to attend. Refreshments were supplied by ASDA and the Viking Spar.
- Mr Madden was awarded an MBE for his noteworthy services to education.
- Noel Lyons attended Senior Classes on the 17th to work on recycling, this was arranged by Mrs O’Dornan.
- Constable McKeown took 2 sessions on e-safety lessons with Senior School pupils on the 17th.
- Ellis from Prestige Flooring & Bathrooms was in school to award the football team was some goodies for their Special Schools Cup win.
- On the 18th classes in the senior school took a trip to the cinema.
- The Makaton Choir performed at the Larne Market Yard.
- The last Toy House session took place of the 19th.
- The 60th celebration ballot was finalised and drawn on the 21st raising a total of £1575.
- The PFA paid for an ice-cream van to attend school as an end of year treat on the 20th.
- A buffet supplied by Marty’s Catering was organised for staff as an end of year treat on the 26th.
- The Splash Project sensory area installation began on the 27th. It was completed and officially opened to pupils on 28th June.
- School finished at 12 noon on Friday 28th June.



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 and walking to and from the local park. Some classes had a short daily walk written into their timetable with some senior classes taking part in a mile a day program. Younger pupils enjoyed using the Gym Time equipment in the hall, with its range of climbing and balancing equipment. Outdoor play such as running, climbing, cycling and basketball started in the summer term for some of the senior pupils.

Swimming continued on a weekly basis, each class from Class JK upwards enjoy 10 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 from the Irish Football Association who delivered another excellent year of fundamental skills coaching and introduced pupils to basic football skills. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council also provided us with 12 weeks of sports coaching for classes from Class JK right up to Class EOD. Each session looked at different team game, such as tag rugby and dodgeball. This year sessions with Ulster Hockey commenced. These were offered to pupils in Classes CW upwards and were held at Larne High's Astro-Turf pitch. Larne Cricket club also provided us with taster sessions during the summer term and classes from CW up availed in these.

The Transitions Group follow their own programme which combines physical activity with health promotion lessons. They take part in weekly coaching lessons at Larne Leisure Centre and take part in daily walks around the local area.

The school football teams took part in a number of sports competitions. They competed at Valley Leisure in the MLD five a side tournament and we successfully defended our MLD title at the Special Schools FA Cup at Lisburn Leisure Plex.

Junior/ASD Sports Day was held on the 5th and 6th June 2024 and much fun was had by all. The pupils took part in an assault course and sensory circuits which involved completing running, jumping and throwing.

Senior Sports Day rebranded as Day of Sport took place on Friday 14th June 2024 at Larne High School's Astro-Turf pitch. Parents and carers were able to attend, and classes rotated around the different sports and got to experience coaches from the Irish Football Association, Local council , Larne Cricket club, Ulster Hockey and Cairndhu Golf Club .

Gardening, as a physical activity, is also included for some pupils within the senior school.

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

Our resident OT provided the ASD department with access to Sensory circuits and provided classes with ideas to implement on a daily basis.



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, nurses from the various teams linked to our pupils. There are parents and young children from the community who come along to our School Toy House. Pupils/students come to the school from local mainstream Schools/Colleges for Work Experience. We have lots of different visitors to Assembly, from local clergy to Scripture Union, Stand by Me, charities and visitors linked to local services and the council.

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, Larne and Inver Garden Centre, Acceptable Enterprises Ltd, 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 2023/2024 school year. We completed modules in OCN Personal

Progress and Independent Living (Personal Care) in collaboration with the Northern Regional College, with delivery from Rhonda Brady (NRC). One part of the course was delivered in Roddensvale and the other part was delivered in Centrepont. Roddensvale School were also delighted to recommence accreditation in CCEA Entry Level qualifications, with selected pupils being entered for qualifications in Basic Food Preparation, Independent Travel, Developing Communication Skills and Using Social Media Safely. This year we

also introduced the Prince's Trust Qualifications for selected pupils in Senior School. This was overseen by Mrs O'Dornan.



Roddensvale School continue to participate in the Shared Education Project alongside Larne Grammar School and St Killian's College.

This year pupils took part in shared learning experiences through Art and Student Council. This included a trip to the Braid Centre and a special shared-education art project in Larne, completing mosaic work under the guidance of Janet Crymble. A shared education PE was planned and was to be held in Larne Grammar school in January 2024, but was cancelled due to adverse weather. Makaton enrichment sessions for students in Larne High School (along with two of their staff members), Larne Grammar School and St Killian's College were held in June 2024. These were taken by Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Humphrey.

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL 2023-2024

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, The Music Yard monies, legacy donation for the building of a music room, earmarked money for the development of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; 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 2023-2024

Income for the year 2023-2024: £29,413.87

Expenditure for the year 2023-2024: £24,965.64

Bank Balance on 30th June 2024: £9,033.94

(after all outstanding debts)

Cash in hand on 30th June 2024: £205.81

During the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024

Principal	1
Vice-Principal	1
Teachers	21 + 10 job-shares
Classroom Assistants	56 + 12 job-shares (6 part-time)
Bus Escorts	18 part-time
Executive Officers	1
Clerical Officers	1 part-time
Lunchtime Sup. Assts.	6 + 1 temporary
Building Supervisor	1
Assistant Building Supervisor	1 part-time
Cleaning Staff	7 part-time
Cook	1 part-time
Canteen Staff	3 part-time
Bus Drivers	3 full-time & 8 part-time
Physiotherapist	1 part-time
Physiotherapy Assistant	1 part-time
Occupational Therapist	1 part-time
Speech Therapist	3 part-time
Speech Therapist Assistant	1 part-time
Family Support Worker	1 part-time

SCHOOL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023 – 2024

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

- ☒ New purpose built rooms in the Satellite at Larne High School Base with sensory spaces off each room
- ☒ 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 in line with our Trauma Informed Practice ethos
- ☒ Meeting the needs of each pupil as an individual through Personal Learning Plans produced in collaboration with Allied Health Professionals and seeking the views of parents
- ☒ Promotion of communication for all pupils through Intensive Interaction, verbal, Makaton, PECS, choice boards, Pixon, and ICT technology such as Big Macks and GoPoint
- ☒ Development of attention to adult-led activities through Attention Autism and The Curiosity Programme
- ☒ 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)

- ☒ Working closely with the EA's Sensory Service for the support of pupils who have hearing loss.

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, Woman's Aid Assembly 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 leaflet, 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 electronic visitor entry system, wear visitor lanyards and 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 6 members of staff who are trained in First Aid. All other staff receive 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, trips to the hydrotherapy pool in school.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ Lessons on Health and Healthy Eating are provided in the Senior School

- Local leisure facilities are used, e.g. Larne Leisure Centre and Larne High School Astro-Turk Pitch on a weekly basis
- Walking group in various classes. 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
- Junior School pupils have access to Healthy Happy Minds for the promotion of well-being
- Pupils are encouraged and supported to develop hobbies and interests
- Offering Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes and opportunities for Transition Group pupils to take part in a multi-activity trip to Belfast Activity 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, Community of Lifesavers

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 class rules
- ☐ Trauma Informed Practices throughout the school
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Trauma Informed approaches
- ☐ 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
- ☐ The Curiosity Programme is used to help build attention and connect with pupils
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Six Bricks programme used to help develop problem-solving and thinking skills

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, in line with the trauma-informed ethos of the school
- ☐ The use of assessment models such as Quest, School Assessment Tool, Lines of Progression and ASD assessment tool

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 Student Council/ pupils and parents
- ☐ Safeguarding and 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, Community of Lifesavers, Attention Autism
- ☐ Sharing good practice – visits to other schools, hosting visits by other schools
- ☐ Relevant school awards and accreditation e.g. Community of Lifesavers

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, Play Therapy
- ☐ Seesaw for home/school communication
- ☐ 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, Belfast Activity Centre Education trip
- ☐ How the Student 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, photos on Seesaw, newsletters, homework, upcoming trips and events
- ☐ Telephone calls, emails and home visits
- ☐ A parental app called 'Seesaw'. Which is updated weekly with pictures from class.
- ☐ Christmas celebrations, Prize Day, Sports Day 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. sensory integration
- ☐ 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 Seesaw messages 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, Larne Grammar School and St Killian's College through the Shared Education Project
- ☐ Work experience opportunities, both in-school and in the local community, e.g. Inver Garden Centre, Carnegie Library, Mums & Tots, Centrepont (AEL),
- ☐ Collaboration and sharing of expertise with staff of other schools, e.g. Moyle Primary School
- ☐ Sharing of resources and experiences, e.g. 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 Advisory and Intervention Service, EA Sensory Service, Educational Psychology, EWO, etc
- ☐ Children's Learning Disability Therapeutic 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 (Family Works)
- ☐ 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, Woman's Aid

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 2024

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