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Acting Principal: Mrs M Hume

# Wheatfield Primary and Nursery School Annual Report

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2015 / 2016

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## **Introduction by David Adams, Chair, Board of Governors**

On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to place on record our thanks to Mrs Hume and all the school staff for their commitment to the children who attend Wheatfield Primary and Nursery School. This report covers a period of significant change for our school. Mrs Liz Evans, our school secretary, retired after 15 years, after 17 years Mr Waugh retired at the start of 2016 and Miss L Officer, after almost 10 years in Wheatfield, moved on to a new post. Three of our substantive teachers were also absent on maternity leave during the 2015/16 school year. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made, and continuing to be made, by temporary staff in the school. I would also acknowledge the patience and understanding of parents and guardians during this period of change.

## **Membership of the Board of Governors (Dec 2016)**

Mrs Maxine Hume- Acting Principal & Secretary to the Board of Governors.

Mrs Mary McCausland-Education Authority (Deputy Chair & Child Protection)

Mr Billy Drummond-Parent

Mrs Laura Montgomery-Parent

Mr Billy Gourley-Transferor

Mrs Clara Adams- Transferor

Rev Reuben McCormick- Transferor

Mrs Suzanne Black- Teacher

Mr David Adams- Education Authority (Chair)

(Mrs Alison Whiteside-Teacher representative covering Mrs Suzanne Black's maternity leave)

## **The Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors at Wheatfield is composed of committed individuals from varied backgrounds who bring a breadth and wealth of experience to the school. Mrs Hume has, as acting Principal, worked closely, positively and proactively with the Board of Governors. A Child Protection and Safe-Guarding Team has been established by Mrs. Hume that includes the designated governor (Mrs McCausland) and myself. Governors are also specifically engaged with the nursery, KS1, KS2 and a governor is appointed to engage with special educational needs provision in the school. The Board of Governors has made substantive appointments of two teachers and a senior clerical officer in 2016.

Governors are invited to and regularly attend school assemblies and school events. Parents were in August and September 2016, for the first time, invited to meet their child's year teacher, at the start of the school term, in order to discuss any special requirements and also learn what was planned for the new school year. These meetings were attended by governors and proved to be very successful. I was personally delighted to be invited, by Mrs Batchelor, to attend the P7 leavers' assembly in June 2016. The Board of Governors will continue to exercise its statutory duties and to promote an interesting and broad curriculum and a range of extra- curricular activities which provide opportunities for all pupils to develop to their full potential.

I would acknowledge Mr Gourley for how he exercised the role of Chairman in December 2015 and January 2016. I would wish to thank our nursery teacher, Mrs Whiteside, for her ongoing contribution, support and advice to the Board of Governors.

It has always, for me, been an honour and a privilege to be a school governor at Wheatfield Primary and Nursery School, never more so than in the last twelve months.



David Adams, Chair, Board of Governors, Wheatfield Primary & Nursery School.

# Principal's Report

After 28 years of teaching in Wheatfield I feel very privileged to be in the position of Acting Principal, helping to shape and mould the life of our school with the dedication and support of an exceptionally hard working staff and Board of Governors. There is great satisfaction in implementing new ideas and working to provide the very best for all the children in our care. Times of change can be difficult but in spite of the challenges it has been incredibly rewarding in many ways. Together we can make a difference.

## **Vision and Values**

We believe that with support, encouragement and commitment every child can achieve personal success. We want our children to feel valued, confident and secure; developing into responsible, well-mannered and well-rounded citizens.

The needs of our children are at the centre of all our decision making and plans and staff are dedicated to providing the best learning experiences and opportunities that they can. Our desire is to enable children to acquire knowledge, relevant skills and abilities with a sense of independence and confidence. We believe that parents play a vital role and we value their support.

The school provides a range of social, moral and spiritual experiences appropriate to the age, ability and individual needs of the children.

## **Child Protection**

This year we formed a Safeguarding and Child Protection Team.

The team consists of:

Mrs M Hume- Designated Teacher

Mrs K Batchelor-Deputy Designated Teacher

Mrs A Whiteside- Nursery teacher

Mrs S Black- P1 teacher

Mrs M McCausland- Governor responsible for Child Protection

Mr D Adams- Chair, Board of Governors

Training for staff and Governors took place on 23rd August and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 for Auxiliary Staff

The Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and updated and concerns, referrals and contacts with parents, outside agencies, etc. were documented as appropriate.

## Health & Safety

We take our responsibilities for the health, safety, welfare and security of pupils and staff very seriously. A health and safety inspection is conducted by governors annually and a report produced and identified issues are addressed. First Aid training was provided to staff in August as a consequence of this inspection. This training included instruction in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator that is located in the school.

## Special Education Needs

We place great importance on meeting the needs of every child in our school and all staff work extremely hard to provide a very high standard of support and pastoral care.

Mrs O Duncan works on a full time basis to support children primarily with literacy needs in withdrawal groups. During 2015-16 a total of 53 children (33%) were placed on the SEN register, 6 of these children had statements of Special Educational Needs (stage 5), 1 child was at stage 4, 20 children were at stage 3, 21 children at stage 2 and 5 children at stage 1. 6 children were taken off the register and no longer required additional support.

## Curriculum

Literacy and Numeracy are the key elements in the learning and teaching in Wheatfield Primary School. The World Around Us (WAU) consisting of Geography, History, Science and Technology is another important focus. All this is complimented by Using ICT across the range of curricular areas.

Planning is carefully monitored and data is used to assess if pupils are working to the best of their ability.

In August 2016, Mrs Campbell, began working as our Signature Teacher, to provide additional support to enhance the performance of KS2 children in Numeracy and Literacy.

In addition to delivering the Northern Ireland Curriculum we endeavour to build self confidence, self esteem and a sense of responsibility and respect.

## Music, dance and drama

Music is an integral part of school life at Wheatfield. Weekly assemblies include singing and music and the younger children are especially enthusiastic! The nursery have engaged in song and rhyme times at the Shankill Library and the whole school have experienced and enjoyed interactive musical theatre with Harmony, the Magical Fairy, Mr Hullabaloo and various other puppet productions and performances throughout the year. In December 2015 the P5 class braved the elements to sing outdoors in the Shankill Christmas Festival and the school choir, which was re-established during the year, sang beautifully at our Open Day in November and Carol Service in December 2016. Children in KS2 have participated in African drumming, Scottish dancing (through the Ulster Scots Project), Talent Shows and the annual barn dance is a fun part of the P7 residential. We are very appreciative of The Ulster Orchestra for providing a weekly programme of instrumental lessons to specific classes. Some children also receive brass tuition from The Belfast School of Music. The school welcomes visits from musicians and the highlight of 2016 was a visit from Rend Collective who performed in the school assembly hall to a very excited audience of children and staff!

## Sport

This year we introduced the 'Daily Mile', to help with learning, behaviour and general health; children and staff from Nursery - P7 walked, jogged or ran for 15 minutes a day. P6 and P7 girls took part in a 'Live Your Goals' Football Road Show and P6 and P7s thoroughly enjoyed the 'Life Guards'; a tough fitness programme promoting positive attitudes, behaviours and lifestyle. P6 and P7 have continued to take part in Basketball with the Peaceplayers, an international charity organisation, developing our cross-community relationships with Holy Cross Girls. The programme fosters an attitude of mutual respect between both school communities.

Children from P1-P7 participated in weekly IFA coaching sessions with Neil Morrison and the 'Wheatfield Wanderers' football team was formed. After schools football continued and Offload rugby was introduced as an after school club and during school for the P2 class to encourage team work and help promote good listening skills. P4s took part in Tag Rugby and were winners in the end of programme celebration event. The P5 class took part in a Fitness and Running Programme with the Belfast Harriers and were encouraged to take part in Parkruns in local parks. They also enjoyed an excellent Sports4Life Programme facilitated by Ulster University, Jordanstown. All KS2 children had swimming lessons in the summer term. For the first time the P7s took part in a BEARS (Building Emotional and Active Resilience in Schools) Programme at the Belfast Activity Centre. This involved caving, climbing, canoeing, bush craft, low ropes, lots of challenge and meeting Prince Edward!

## School trips

School trips have included visits to farms, parks, film festivals, museums, Christmas markets, writing workshops, garden centres, the City Hall ( for a Healthy Cities Project), Stormont, Queen's University, Crumlin Road Gaol and places further afield such as Donegal (with the Ulster Scots Project). The P6 and P7 classes also enjoyed residential in Delamont Country Park and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra.

## Extra - Curricular Activities / Extended Schools Programme

The Extended Schools Programme has proved very beneficial. Activities have included Spanish, Film Club, I.T., Football, Rugby, Art and Craft, Bright Sparks, Brain Teasers, Cycling Proficiency, Drama, Badminton and Indoor Games. During the year our football team were commended for their good behaviour and sportsmanship at a local schools tournament. We were also very pleased to introduce a Breakfast Club in November.

## Local Management of Schools

The Education Reform Order (N.I.) introduced the Local Management of Schools scheme (L.M.S.) which gives financial control to the Board of Governors. The amount allocated for the running of the school is the Planned Budget share, which is determined by the number of pupils enrolled. The school is in a sound financial position.

Annual Budget: 2015-16: £681,069  
 Total Expenditure: 2015-16: £602,485  
 Surplus: £78,584  
 Annual Budget: 2016-17: £684,188

## **Charities**

During the school year we supported several charities:

‘Stand by Me’ - £230.00

Royal British Legion

The HeArt Room - £131.00

The Eileen Moreland Foundation - £115.00

Children in Need - £120.00

## **Staff (as of Dec 2016):**

**Acting Principal:** Mrs M Hume

### **Teachers:**

**Nursery:** Mrs A Whiteside

**P1:** Mrs S Black & Miss H Meneely

**P2:** Mrs L Anderson & Miss H Meneely

**P3:** Miss J Ewing

**P4:** Mrs G McKittrick

**P5:** Miss E Clarke

**P6:** Ms R Waugh

**P7:** Mrs K Batchelor

**Learning Support:** Mrs O Duncan

**Signature teacher:** Mrs H Campbell (Mon, Tues, Wed)

### **Assistants:**

Mrs M Young- Nursery assistant

Mrs E Elliott – P1 assistant (mornings)

Mrs M Stockman – P2 assistant (mornings)

Mrs A Bennett – P2 assistant (afternoons)

Mrs S Smith – SEN assistant

Mrs S Cunningham – SEN assistant

Mrs G Hunter – SEN assistant

Miss D Potts – SEN assistant

**Senior Clerical Officer:** Mrs B McDonald

**Building Supervisor:** Mr S Moreland

**Cleaning Staff:** Mrs E Burns, Mrs C Elwood

**Kitchen Staff:** Mrs M Harris, Mrs K McKee & Mrs I Gould

**Supervisory Assistants:** Mrs J Gray, Mrs E Burns, Mrs C Elwood

**Patrol Ladies:** Mrs I Gould & Mrs J Sweeney

**Breakfast Club staff:** Mrs M Young, Mrs S Blair

**Classroom Volunteers:** Mrs M McCausland (P3& P4) Mrs A Bennett (P4)

**Child Care Placement:** Mrs D Watts (Nursery)

**Appointments in 2016**

KS 1 teacher: Mrs G McKittrick

KS 2 teacher: Miss E Clarke

Senior Clerical Officer: Mrs B McDonald

Mr F Blair provided additional support for Building Supervisor and cleaning staff.

**Assessment Outcomes in 2016**

Key stage 1

In Communication: 57.14 % of children achieved Level 2

In Mathematics: 61.90 % of children achieved Level 2

Key stage 2

In Communication: 44.44 % of children achieved Level 4

In Mathematics: 44.44 % of children achieved Level 4

**Enrolment and attendance**

The enrolment of the school Sept 2015/June 2016 was 159

The number in each class as follows:

Nursery - 26, P1 - 19, P2 - 21, P3 - 18, P4 - 22, P5 - 15, P6 - 19, P7 - 19

Overall attendance for the year was 92%

Free School Meals - 80%

The current number of children enrolled is 161 (Dec 2016)



## **Outreach Support**

We are very pleased to avail of much outreach provision to support our children in various ways:

Mrs S McQuoid- Harberton Learning Support  
Mrs S McFeeters- Harberton Behaviour Support  
Mrs J Taggart - Clarawood Behaviour Support  
Mrs A Jenkins- Dyslexia Support  
Mrs M Wallace - Comet Programme (Sept 15 - June 16)  
Mrs V Whiteside - CIDS (Childrens Interdisciplinary Schools) Team  
Mr P Tinney - Brass tuition  
Miss J Maguire - Art Therapy sessions  
Mrs D Hawkins - Peer Massage  
Mrs J McCracken & Mrs C Massey- Jigsaw Counselling  
Mrs C Massey - Parent Support

From January 2016 we extended counselling sessions to one full day per week and in October 2016 we introduced a Parent Support worker (one day per week). We have also developed a small room into a relaxing, quiet space for both children and parents.

## **Community Involvement**

The following are just some samples of a wide range of community interventions and participation:

- Young at Art workshops
- A 'Bake Off' (organised by parents)
- workshops with Canadian students as part of Peace Schools Project
- writing workshops with local author – Derek Keilty
- story telling with Liz Weir, members of the local community and Board of Governors
- a presentation from BBC Weather Man, Barra Best
- KS1 and KS2 Maths Trails for children and parents
- Lessons from a Queen's medical student
- Visit from First Minister Arlene Foster and Nelson McCausland
- 'Her Majesty' visited when celebrating her special birthday
- Food & Fitness Presentation from the Dairy Council
- Boys' Model Peer Mentoring Programme
- ICT sessions at the Girls' Model School
- Belfast Royal Academy Work Experience Programme
- PSNI Community Relations Constable focused on aspects of safety for children in school and in the community
- Visits from the Fire Service, Paramedics, and Nurse Meneely
- Young Enterprise Workshops
- Captain Clean Up, Litter Lab (Belfast City Council)
- Park Life Programme
- Involvement with the Pushkin Trust
- Armagh Planetarium brought a 'Star Dome' to the assembly hall
- School fair with PSNI vehicles and dog handlers
- Local churches involved in assemblies
- Shankill Alternatives Workshops and 'GoodforNothing' Campaign

The school is grateful to Immanuel, Church of Ireland for the use of the church for the Christmas Carol Service.

### **New initiatives**

In March/April we carried out some refurbishment in the school dining hall to provide new toilet facilities. Railings in the Nursery and school grounds were repainted in bright colours and photographs of staff members were displayed in our reception area.

We have strived to improve and develop communication by introducing Classdojo, setting up a Wheatfield Primary & Nursery School facebook page and introducing additional parent /teacher meetings in August/September and in February.

To encourage our P7 children we introduced the role of prefects. In addition to this we were delighted to appoint a Head Boy - Zac McDowell and a Head Girl - Kristen Walker and to appoint Deputies - Xander Wilgaus and Tia Officer.

Children, parents, staff and governors all had an opportunity to vote for a school motto and 'Believe, Achieve, Succeed' is now displayed on our assembly wall and at reception.

### **The Future**

We have received a substantial amount of funding (190K) for the improvement of our school grounds and are excited with the plans. The next number of months will see extensive external development providing additional play, sporting and outdoor educational facilities.

At present our website, [www.wheatfieldps.co.uk](http://www.wheatfieldps.co.uk), is being built which we hope will provide much additional information and be a very useful resource for parents.

The active involvement and support of parents is very important to us, and we value the active participation of parents in their children's education.



Report issued by Mrs Maxine Hume  
Acting Principal of Wheatfield Primary & Nursery School.

**Believe ★ Achieve ★ Succeed**