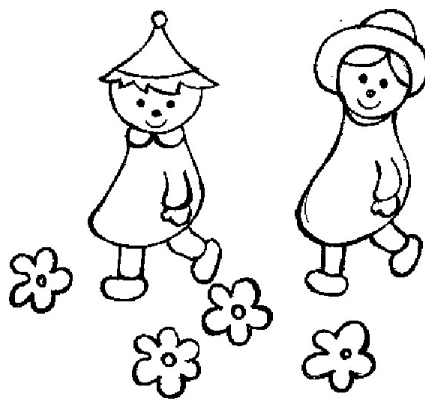




KNOCKBREDA NURSERY SCHOOL

Nurturing learning for life

Knockbreda Nursery School



Annual Report

2020-2021



KNOCKBREDA NURSERY SCHOOL

Nurturing learning for life

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is once again my pleasure as Chairman of the Board of Governors to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for the current school year 2020-2021.

This has been a stressful year for all of us, as we have continued to live with the restrictions associated with the Coronavirus. Everyone has played their part to try and minimize disruption but it has been an immense challenge. This year, Teaching and Learning has been both in person and online. Everyone has stepped up to the mark. So thank you to the staff, children, parents/ carers and governors who have continued to do their best in the most difficult of circumstances. The children are now ready to move on to P1.

It is with sadness, that I inform you of the death of one of our Governors. Mr Stuart Baxter passed away in May 2021 after a long illness. He was a great advocate for the school and took his duties on the Board with great diligence. We in the school will miss him greatly because he was a man of honesty, wisdom and character. On behalf of the Board and the school, I have visited his wife Margaret and his family to express our condolences.

This will be last report from Dr Mitchell-Barrett. As you already know, she is moving on to a new role in a large primary school in Bangor. We thank her for the amazing contribution she has made to KNS. Rhonda is an outstanding professional and what she has helped the school to achieve over the last number of years has truly been remarkable. We wish her every success in her new appointment and she goes with our blessing.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours faithfully
Mr R McNeill

Chairperson, Board of Governors
June 2021



Ethos Statement

The ethos of the school is what characterises its spirit, and can be seen in its beliefs and aspirations.

Knockbreda Nursery School aspires to provide a child focused pre-school experience that is warm and welcoming, open and inclusive, and one that will positively introduce your child to education.

To achieve this end, Knockbreda Nursery School promotes and encourages:

1. Staff to be unashamedly approachable and accessible.
2. A friendly and welcoming environment for parents, guardians and their children.
3. The comprehensive involvement of parents and guardians in the life of the school and the education of their children.
4. Full inclusivity for children, irrespective of need, ability, denomination or race.
5. A nurturing educational atmosphere based on fun and positivity.
6. Flexibility of learning that engages all children and allows them to reach their full potential.
7. The development of confident, happy children who are keen to progress to primary school.



Aims

The staff at Knockbreda Nursery School, in partnership with parents, aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment where each child will have the opportunity to develop fully in every aspect of his/her development. To this end it is the aim of the school that every child should be given opportunities to:

- Develop at his/her own rate through challenging, progressive play.
- Learn to share with others and play co-operatively.
- Appreciate and care for others and practise social skills.
- Deepen and lengthen concentration through his/her natural spontaneous curiosity and interest.
- Choose and explore a wide range of materials which allow him/her to express himself/herself appropriately and creatively.
- Become aware of his/her body's capabilities and limits in a safe environment.
- Communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly to both adults and other children.
- Share the wonder and excitement created by books, stories, songs, rhymes, music and the natural environment.
- Grow in self confidence, experience success and thus develop a good self image.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of work well done and share with his/her parents.
- Recognise the importance of learning outdoors and to play purposefully in the many outdoor spaces available at Nursery.

Membership of the Board of Governors

Representing

Mr R A McNeill	Chairman and EA Representative
Mr J P Shields	Vice-Chairman and EA Representative
Vacant	EA Representative and Governor responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding
Vacant	Department of Education Representative
Vacant	Department of Education Representative
Mr D Rafferty	Parent Representative
Mrs N Killough	Parent Representative/ Governor responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding (covering for Mr Baxter)
Mrs M Welsh	Teacher Representative
Dr R Mitchell-Barrett	Secretary

The areas of responsibility of the Board of Governors include, the curriculum, staff appointment recommendations, pupil admissions, school premises, health and safety and finance. The Governors meet regularly to discuss these matters with the Principal.

Safeguarding Committee

Mr R A McNeill

Mrs N Killough

Mrs M Welsh

Finance Committee

Mr R A McNeill

Mr J P Shields

Mr D Rafferty

Pupil Admissions

Mr R A McNeill

Mr J P Shields

Mr D Rafferty

The Staff Team

Teaching Principal/ Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Dr R Mitchell-Barrett
Assistant Teacher/ Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs M Welsh
Nursery Assistant	Mrs S Beggs
Nursery Assistant	Miss S Sanchez
Clerical Officer	Mrs S Benson
Building Supervisor	Vacant Cleaning cover- Miss R Lowey
Catering Assistant	Mrs K Ditty

Pupil Admissions

During the year 2020-2021 a total of 52 children were enrolled in two classes of full time sessions.

Staffing and Staff Development

Miss Sanchez is currently covering Mrs O'Leary's one year career break. Miss Lowey is covering the role of Building Supervisor and is cleaning, as emergency cover.

School Curriculum

The school curriculum is based on the NI Pre-School Curriculum Guidelines. The aim of the Board of Governors is to provide a stable environment in which the full potential of each child is realised in all aspects of their development. For young children play is their right and it is essential to the learning process. The staff work as a team to deliver a rich and varied curriculum appropriate to the children's age and stage of development. The Principal is the Designated Teacher to whom all Child Protection referrals should be made and in her absence, the Assistant Teacher is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

The Pre-School curriculum incorporates six main areas of learning.

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Language development
- Early mathematical development
- Physical development and movement
- The world around us
- The arts

The staff team are fully committed to updating and increasing their expertise. In-service training takes place in a variety of ways; during the statutory non-teaching days and School Development Days.

An overview of the school's staff training calendar is presented on the next page.

		DATE		FOCUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT
Baker Days	Day	Date		
		Day 1	18.08.2020	School reset- Covid 19 set up
	Day 2	19.08.2020	Staff handbook and school staff systems School Development Plan and Action Plans Risk Assessments School calendar planning- <u>overview of school holiday dates</u> Child Protection update Individual meetings with staff 1:1 Covid-19 risks and management Staff Charter EA Risk assessment H&S routines and implications to planning, school routines	

	Day 3	20.08.2020	School Curriculum Planning
	Day 4	21.08.2020	Ace Training Staff Well-being- Covid 19 Online training Legal Island- Covid 19 and Personal Resilience
	Day 5	24.08.2020	Classroom organisation and curriculum planning
SDDs	Day	Date	
	Day 1	02.11.2020	Staff wellbeing -Covid 19
	Day 2	04.01.2021	Planning for remote learning
	Day 3	05.01.2021	Planning for remote learning
	Day 4	28.05.2021	Assessment and report writing
	Day 5	01.07.2021	Classroom Planning and Organisation

Staff Training Days

Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs were identified, assessed and Individual Education Plans devised to meet their individual needs. Contact was maintained throughout the year with outside agencies including Speech and language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and members of the NI RISE team, all contributing advice and assistance for specific individuals.

Parental Involvement

Partnership with parents is an important part of Nursery life and is encouraged throughout the year. Parents and carers were invited to access a curriculum training event which was uploaded to the school's website in September 2020.

School was closed from January- March 2021 and during this period, remote learning was in place. The staff worked hard to ensure that parents and carers were communicated to effectively during this time and this was done through emails, phonecalls, uploaded learning content and home learning activity packs.

Due to Covid-19, Knockbreda Nursery School could not host our annual end of year celebration events. In place of this, celebration movies of each class at play have been uploaded to the school's website.

Fundraising and Charity Donations

Parents and carers can contribute to the School Fund which pays for the children's daily snack and enrichment activities, art and craft resources and visitors to school (as permitted).

All of the children participated in a number of charity fundraising events throughout the year including; Children in Need, Comic Relief Red Nose Day and the Cancer Fund for Children.

Parental Consultations

The Class Teachers offered consultations during each term to share with parents how their child had settled and progressed in all areas of learning throughout the

school year. With parental consent, transition forms will be forwarded to their chosen Primary School in the summer term. Children transitioned to a variety of Primary Schools; in total seven different schools!

These included:

1. St Bernard's Primary School
2. Knockbreda Primary School
3. Rosetta Primary School
4. Lisnasharragh Primary School
5. St Michael's Primary School
6. Holy Rosary Primary School
7. Fairview Primary School
8. Cairnshill Primary School
9. St Joseph's Primary School

The School Budget

The Board of Governors is responsible for the use of funds allocated to the school by the Education Authority, South Eastern Region. The school receives money from the Department of Education on an age weighted pupil unit basis and on the number of pupils in the school. The Governors, in partnership with the Principal are responsible for managing this delegated budget, held centrally by the Education Authority. The Common Formula Budget available for 2020 – 2021 was £179, 211. This covers staff salaries, utilities, ground maintenance, school repairs, equipment and resources.

Financial Summary

Common Formula Budget	2020-2021	£179, 211
Projected Expenditure	2020-2021	<u>£173, 692</u>
<u>Projected March</u>	<u>March 2021</u>	<u>-£1, 413</u>

Links

Thanks to funding from the Getting Ready To Learn, Big Bedtime Read initiative children and parents continued benefitted from new books in our classroom Reading Areas and home learning Busy Bags.

School has had support from many professionals this year including yhe NI RISE team and the Educational Psychology Department at EA.

This year, Dr Mitchell-Barrett continued in her role as Shared Education Co-ordinator and an Associate Assessor for ETI.

Knockbreda Nursery School successfully reapplied for the Eco Schools Green Flag award and as an accredited Forest School setting continued to support other schools in their Forest School journey.

Thanks

The Governors are very grateful to the Principal and the staff team for the work completed in helping promote the achievement of the school aims. They value each and every member of the team without whom the school would cease to function smoothly and efficiently. We look forward with confidence to the future of Knockbreda Nursery School.