



KNOCKBREDA NURSERY SCHOOL

Nurturing learning for life

Knockbreda Nursery School



Annual Report

2022-2023



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Nurturing learning for life

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my pleasure as Chairman of the Board of Governors to present the Governors Annual Report for 2022 – 2023.

This was the year the Nursery School was finally able to get back to normality. The last few years have been so challenging for everyone but I think we are all now in a much better place. Mrs Devine went on maternity leave in February and then had a little boy called Oscar. Many congratulations in this lovely new phase of life. After interviews at the SELB, Mrs Welsh was appointed to the acting Principal of our school. I would like to thank her for the wonderful job she has done, as I'm sure all parents would agree. To all the staff who make KNS such a welcoming place, where children receive an excellent start to their education, I would on behalf of the Board, like to say a very sincere thanks for all their continuing hard work. It is really appreciated.

To the children and you the parents / carers, I'm sure your pleased to have successfully navigated the school year. Knockbreda Nursery School, is I'm sure you will agree, a school we can all be extremely proud of.

Our children are now ready to move on to P1. It is my wish and prayer that they have enjoyed their experiences being part KNS and that their next chapter, in primary school, will continue their search for knowledge and understanding. Enjoy a well deserved summer break.

Yours faithfully

Mr R McNeill

Chairperson, Board of Governors

June 2023



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 McNeill	Chairman and EA Representative
Mr J Shields	Vice-Chairman and EA Representative
Dr A de la Torre	EA Representative
Ms J Durkin	Department of Education Representative
Mr D Rafferty	Parent Representative
Ms J Marjoram	Parent Representative and Governor responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding
Ms M Fisher	Parent Representative
Mrs M Welsh	Teacher Representative
Mrs A Devine	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
Ms J Marjoram
Mrs M Welsh
Mrs Devine

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	Mrs A Devine
Acting Principal/ Assistant Teacher/ Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs M Welsh
Nursery Assistant	Mrs S Beggs
Nursery Assistant	Mrs O'Leary
1:1 Assistant	Mrs Hollywood
1:1 Assistant	Miss Lowey
1:1 Assistant	Miss McCooke
Clerical Officer	Mrs S Benson
Building Supervisor	Mr McClelland
Catering Assistant	Mrs K Ditty

Pupil Admissions

During the year 2022-2023 a total of 54 children were enrolled in two classes of full time sessions.

Staffing and Staff Development

Mrs Devine took a Maternity Leave at the end of February. Mrs Welsh was successful upon interview to be the Acting Principal until June 2023. Miss Lowey will remain as a 1:1 assistant during the next academic year.

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.

Staff Training Days

Baker Days	DATE		FOCUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT
	Day	Date	
	Day 1	Friday 19 th August 22	Legal Island Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Children in Northern Ireland Primary Schools • Workplace Health and Safety in Northern Ireland • Data Protection in the Northern Ireland Workplace • Menopause in the Northern Ireland Workplace
	Day 2	Monday 22 nd August 22	Classroom Organisation School Development Plan and Action Plans School calendar planning SEN Update Staff Charter Seesaw
	Day 3	Tuesday 23 rd August 22	Joan Henderson Training
	Day 4	Monday 20 th March 23	Action Plans/ School Development/ ETI
	Day 5	Friday 30 th June 23	Classroom planning and organisation for new intake
SDDs	Day	Date	
	Day 1	Wednesday 24 th August 22	Planning in the Moment Training Anna Ephgrave (Stormont Hotel/ Barnett Suite) 9.30 am- 3pm

	Day 2	Wednesday 4 th January 23	Time in lieu due to October Drop In Night & December Open Day
	Day 3	Monday 13 th February 23	Food Safety Training
	Day 4	Wednesday 19 th April 23	SEN Update/ Policies
	Day 5	Tuesday 30 th May 23	New Intake pupils Play and Stay

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. This year parents and carers were invited to: a curriculum training event in the Hub with Mrs Devine during the first term; a Family Drop-in Night during October, where parents and siblings were able to dress up and play in the classrooms; a planting session in March to celebrate Earth Day and the Big Seed Sow with Mrs Welsh; a whole-school eco-meeting in May with Mrs Welsh; and finally to our End of Year celebrations, where the children enjoyed singing their favourite songs and having an ice-lollie afterwards! Your support was much appreciated.

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 such as Jo Jingles, Playball NI and Jump, Jiggle and Jive.

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;

These included:

1. St Bernard's Primary School
2. Knockbreda Primary School

3. Carryduff Primary School
4. Rosetta Primary School
5. St. Michael's Primary School
6. Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School
7. Forge Integrated Primary School
8. Lead Hill Primary School
9. Greenwood Primary School
10. Scoil an Droichid

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 2021 – 2022 was £179, 211. This covers staff salaries, utilities, ground maintenance, school repairs, equipment and resources.

Financial Summary

Common Formula Budget	2022-2023	£198,350
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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 puppet storytelling bags.

School has had support from many professionals this year including the NIRISE team, the Early Years Inclusion Service and the Educational Psychology Department at EA.

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.