



St. Comgall's Primary School
23 Brunswick Road
Bangor
Co. Down
BT20 3DS

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

Quality Learning, Friendship For All



Board of Governors Annual Report

Academic Year 2015-2016

www.stcomgallsps.co.uk
Twitter: @ComgallsBangor

Principal : Mrs Cathy Hunter



Principal: Mrs Cathy Hunter
Tel: 02891 463194
Email: chunter073@c2kni.net
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**Thank you for your time and support for the life & work of
St. Comgall's Primary School**



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Chairperson's Address

Dear Parent/Carers & Friends of St Comgall's,

On behalf of the Board of Governors I am delighted to present the Annual Report for the Academic Year 2015/16.

This report will hopefully give you some insight into all that has gone on in St Comgall's over what was a very busy, exciting and productive academic year.

There have been a number of exciting curricular and pastoral developments this year not least the school's prestigious iTeach Champion School NI Digital Learning Award.

St Comgall's continues to be at the forefront of curriculum design for improvement and always with the interests and well-being of the children at the heart of everything we do.

The Governors and I look forward to continuing to support and challenge the Principal and Staff to sustain the high standards set within St Comgall's Primary School and further our reputation as a centre of excellence.

St Comgall's continues to forge and further develop very successful links with our Family of Parish Schools which only serves to strengthen the catholic ethos of all of these providers as a family unit.

We are delighted to continue our close partnerships with St Malachy's PS, St Anne's PS & St Columbanus' College as well as our Pre-School & Nursery colleagues to provide a continuum of high quality Catholic education in the Parish of Bangor.

We were delighted during the last academic year to celebrate our school's 125th Anniversary, it was wonderful to see so many past pupils, and staff at the quasiquicentennial Mass.

We thank everyone for the support we received during this very special year.

I commend this report and the work of the school to you and remind you that the continued partnership between Home, School and Parish remains the cornerstone of what we, in St Comgall's, are all about.

Yours sincerely,

B Jamison

Mr Brian Jamison
Chair of the Board of Governors



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VISION STATEMENT

“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”

St Comgall's is committed to the aims and ideals of Catholic education and through this, we are committed to develop each child's full potential in a climate of joy, challenge, co-operation and celebration in partnership with and between Home, School, Parish and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

We believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community.

We are firmly committed to providing a loving and caring atmosphere, which embodies our Catholic Ethos in which the children can grow and develop to their full potential in all aspects of their life.

We, the Governors and Staff of St. Comgall's Primary School believe the school to be a vital part of the Community.

We, as a staff, aim to cultivate and nurture a Catholic and Christian ethos which will permeate every aspect of school life.

Positive inter-personal relationships with all at St Comgall's are the cornerstone of this principle.

The Governors & Staff of St Comgall's are firmly committed to:

- the aims of the school
- providing effective education for all our children
- developing pastoral care in the school
- establishing close links with the home, the parish and the wider community.

St. Comgall's seeks to establish an educative community centred on Christ so that His values and gospel message pervade the whole life of the school.

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL AIMS

“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”

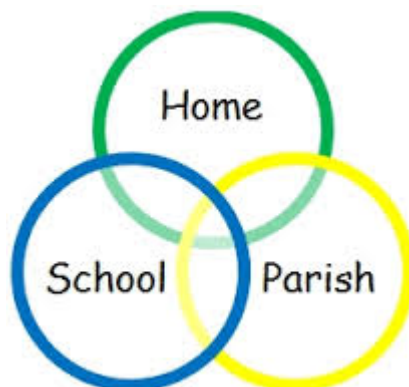


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As a Catholic School we are committed to:

- fostering and nourishing Christian values for life
- creating a happy, caring, safe learning environment
- providing a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- promoting innovative teaching and an investigative skills-based approach to learning
- embracing new initiatives in our quest for life-long learning
- using a varied, up-to-date, range of learning resources
- providing an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- endeavouring to strengthen partnerships between school, home, parish and community



Alone we can
do so little;
together we can
do so much.

School Profile: Developments in 2015-16:

Situated on the Brunswick Road in Bangor West, St Comgall's National School opened in October 1890 with an enrolment of forty-eight pupils.

The original school building was the former parish church. A new school was built in 1929 and extended in 1956.



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The Sisters of Mercy, who taught in the girls' school since 1932 remained closely associated with St Comgall's Primary School until 1990.

In March 1990 the Department of Education approved the building of a replacement school. This project began on site in March 1994 and was completed at the end of June 1996.

There are nine permanent classrooms, three on either side of central resource areas. In addition there are three modular classrooms, a meeting room, ICT Zone and multi-purpose gymnasium and school kitchen.

A new FS/KS1 soft play area was added to our accommodation in 2003 and in 2013, an additional Eco-Trail was installed in partnership with our hard-working PTA.

The school is well resourced with a wide range of equipment including twelve interactive whiteboards, indoor and outdoor play-based learning equipment, P.E. equipment and a plentiful supply of textbooks, book banded reading books and in 2015, a newly established, well stocked, library and study break-out area was added.

In 2007 St Comgall's underwent the C2K Lot 6 Refresh to complement our range of networked PCs. The school continues to recognise the benefits of ICT and invests heavily in providing our pupils with state-of-the-art technology and software packages to support their learning.

We have excellent ratios of iPad technology in the school and continue to fundraise to add to our current deployment of Apple™ Technology to further enhance learning & teaching.

As an **"Investors in People Silver Award School"** (2010) we value and invest heavily in the training of our staff. Staff are currently involved in a number of initiatives which will further enhance the curricular programmes within the school. In June 2015, we became proud holders of the **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award** and in February 2016 became the only primary school in Northern Ireland to be awarded the **iTeach Champion Digital School NI**, with all of our teachers recognised with **Gold, Silver & Bronze** teaching accreditations.

St. Comgall's places great emphasis on developing our international and cross-community potential. Always to the fore of innovation, we have developed an International Dimension to the Curriculum Policy to enrich our curriculum based learning with school based projects with other schools across Europe. Indeed our international work with schools in Sweden and Spain was recognised in 2009 when St. Comgall's achieved the prestigious **"International (Gold) Schools Award"**. In 2012, the school was the first in Northern Ireland to receive the equally prestigious **"Schools Church Award"** and in **October 2015** we officially enrolled as a **Global Learning Programme (GLP) School**.



Pupils – St Comgall's is an inclusive Catholic school. We welcome pupils from all faiths and backgrounds. We celebrate, respect and cherish each and every pupil. We treat everyone as unique and cater for their individual needs.

At present we are working hard through our Pupil Council to gain Level 1 in the **Unicef Rights-Respecting School Award**, having had our commitment to this project recognised in 2016.



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Our **Pupil Council** aims to give pupils a voice and to involve them in the decision-making processes and life of our school. They are a fantastic group of pro-active children, voted for by their peers and always a credit to our school.

Our School **Eco-Council** also gives pupils a voice and plays an active part in developing Global Citizenship and Environmental awareness within our school. They are currently working towards a second **Eco-Schools Green Flag**, becoming a **FairTrade School** and they work in partnership with our Fit For Life programmes such as **The Daily Mile** & **Sustrans Active Travel**.

Parental Partnership – We actively promote the development of strong parental partnerships through a wide range programme of parent workshops, events and regular Parent Teacher meetings. We operate Parent Mystery Reader Programmes, Reading Partnerships, iParent Digital Learning Sessions and more.

We are blessed to have a very enthusiastic and active **Parent Teacher Association** who work tirelessly to source and provide additional funding for the school through regular fundraising activities and grant applications. Presently they finance our School FamilyWorks Counsellor who provides 1:1 counselling for children who have suffered through bereavement, illness, family issues or anxiety. They also support our ongoing projects such as the development of our outdoor areas and fundraising for additional iPad and Play equipment.

The Curriculum

When we speak of curriculum in our school we mean the learning experiences that are present for each child.

When planning the curriculum we take into account the uniqueness of each child and their individual needs.

Our aim is to offer each child a broadly based and suitably balanced curriculum in line with the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum.

This involves six Areas of Learning:

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Religion



In additional there are Cross Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT



Special Educational Provision

We identify the educational and welfare needs of each child at the earliest opportunity to ensure early intervention and cater for them accordingly. We are dedicated to early identification of need and remediation and support as apt.



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The identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher through differentiation i.e. group and individual teaching, in-class support and if appropriate, through withdrawal for further specialised learning opportunities and/or additional support from existing staff and/or the appropriate agencies.

The provision for Special Educational and Additional Needs is reviewed and assessed regularly by the Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo), **Mr Bernard Noble** in consultation with SLT, staff and EPS.

Where appropriate, an Individual Education (IEP) Plan will be drawn up for a child in collaboration with all relevant bodies.

The SENCo offers support to all teachers in drafting IEPs and from September 2015 also engaged the services of a highly-experienced, full-time **Learning Support** assistant, **Mrs Janet Mullan**, to provide individual and small group withdrawal as an intervention strategy.

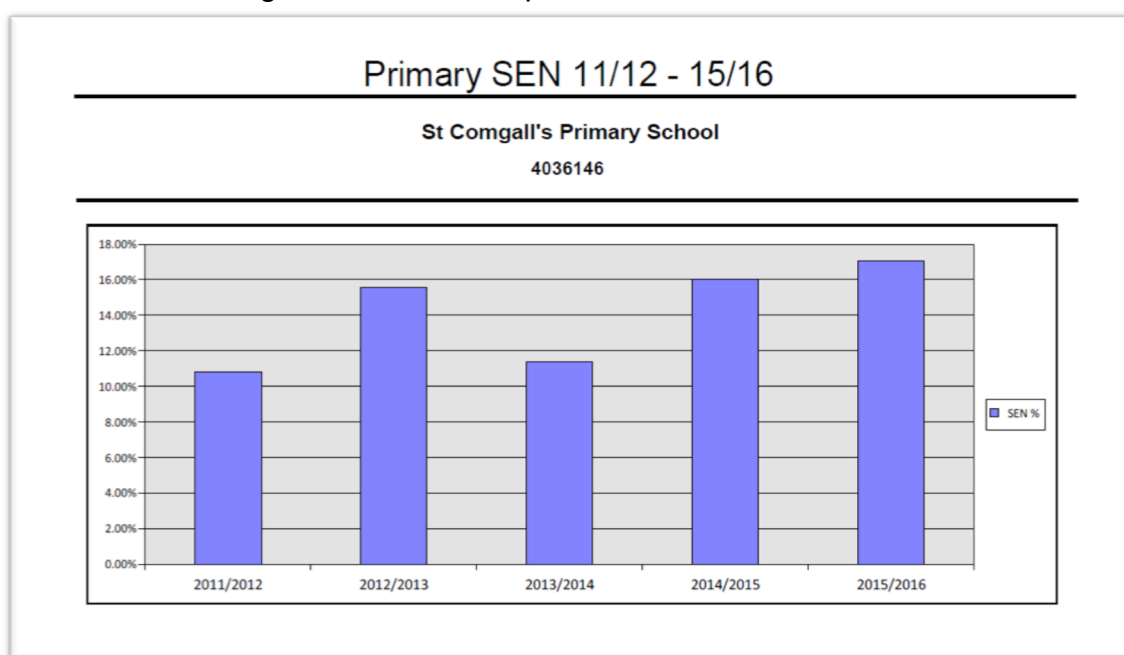
A dedicated **Learning Support Room** was established and stocked with plentiful SEN Resources.

Staff also undertook Reading Partnership, ASD and Maths Recovery training and are currently undergoing training in Dyslexia Support strategies.

St Comgall's also avails of additional support for our pupils and staff from Educational Psychology (EPS), Education Welfare (EWO), ASD Service, Cottown, ASCET, CAMHS, OT, Speech & Language Therapy and where apt, Social Services.

The use of iPad technology has also supported pupil progress and internal performance data reflects the successes achieved and the high quality learning experiences on offer.

At present, approx. 18% of pupils are recognised as having an additional or special educational need with almost 4% having a Statement of Special Educational Need.



St Comgall's PS has established an excellent reputation for promoting high levels of pastoral care and setting and realising high standards for all of our children. This was very positively commented upon during our recent **ETI Inspection (April 2014)**.



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Bangor Parish Family of Schools



Religious Education

As a Catholic School we promote and foster the development of the Catholic faith, in partnership between Home, School & Parish.

However, Catholicism by nature is inclusive and all are taught to have and demonstrate respect for others.

We work closely with our Parish Priest, Father Gunn, and our Bangor Parish **Family of Schools** to foster, nurture, develop and promote the Catholic faith, Christian values and to secure in our pupils a Love of God & Love of Neighbour.

School Discipline

St. Comgall's Primary School adopts a positive approach to discipline expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others at all times.

This expectation is further reflected and communicated to parents via our school newsletter and monthly Assembly Themes.

The school aims to create an atmosphere of ***"Love of God and Love of Neighbour."***

Children are taught to show respect to priests, teachers, ancillary staff, visitors and to one another. Good behaviour promotes effective learning and the development of application, concentration and honest effort.

St Comgall's PS operates termly Pastoral Awards in addition to a Curricular Awards system to motivate pupil behaviour and establish clear expectations and role-models for the whole school community.

The P7 pupils act as Playtime Buddies who ensure that our Pastoral Care policy is as active in our pupils as it is in our staff.

The behaviour of our pupils was noted as ***'exemplary'*** in our recent inspection and the standard of Pastoral Care as ***'outstanding'***.

St. Comgall's Leadership Structure

Board of Governors



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Principal – Mrs Cathy Hunter

(SMT)

Vice-Principal – Miss Anne Higgins

SLT

Miss Bronagh Carey

Mr Bernard Noble

Miss Julie-Anne Mullally

Middle Leaders

Miss Gillian Walker

Mrs Charlene Lavery

Mrs Sharon Parker

Mr Sean Ennis

Teachers (with Additional Duties)

Miss Garland

Mrs Monaghan

Mrs Taylor-Wilson

Mrs Coleman

Mrs Curley

Ms Quinn

Mrs Mc Callion

Key Stage Leaders

Foundation Stage

Key Stage One

Key Stage Two

Miss Mullally

Mr Noble

Miss Carey

Co-ordination Focus Teams

Subject / Learning Area	Led By:	Supported By:
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Literacy	Miss Mullally	Mrs Coleman & Mr Ennis
Numeracy	Miss Carey	Miss Walker & Mrs Parker
UICT, E-Safety & Digital Learning/Marketing	Miss Walker	Mrs Hunter, Mr Ennis & Miss Carey
Assessment	Miss Carey	Mrs Hunter & Miss Mullally
World Around Us (incl PBL/ABL) & STEM	Mrs Lavery	Mrs Curley & Ms Quinn
Eco-Schools	Mrs Taylor-Wilson	Ms Quinn & Mr Busby
The Arts	Mrs Parker (Art, Music, Drama)	Mrs Mc Callion, Mrs Curley, Mrs Taylor-Wilson & Mr Noble
Religion, Personal & Faith Development	Mrs Parker	Miss Higgins & Mrs Mc Callion Mrs Lavery (RoE) *Mr Noble (Choir)
Learning Support (SEN)	Mr Noble	Mrs Hunter, Miss Carey (Mrs Mullan & Ms Pickard)
Play & Physical Development	Mrs Monaghan	Miss Mullally & Miss Garland
PE, Health, Sport & Extra-Curricular Development	Mr Ennis	Mrs Monaghan, Miss Garland & Miss Higgins
Pastoral Care, Safeguarding & Well-Being	Miss Higgins	Miss Mullally, Mrs Hunter & Miss Walker
School Council & Pupil Voice	Mrs Hunter	Mr Ennis & Mrs Coleman

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

Board of Governors 2015-2016

Very Reverend Fr J Gunn
Mr Brian Jamison
Mr Frank Kelly
Mrs Pat Mc Quillan
Dr Grainne Doran
Mr Ray Havlin
Miss Anne Higgins
Mrs Pauline Huth
Mr Pat Mc Cartan
Mrs Cathy Hunter

Trustee
Chairperson & Trustee
Vice-Chair & EA Representative
Trustee
EA Representative
Parent Trustee
Teacher Representative (VP)
Parent Representative 2014-16
DE Representative
Principal & Secretary to Governors

PRSD Arrangements 2015-2016

The common foci for PRSD this year were:

Professional Practice:

Engage in a culture of shared learning & collaboration through continuous professional development, in-



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house training sessions, TeachMeets, Professional Planning Time, Team-Teaching & Co-ordination Focus Teams.

Develop leadership & accountability skills in relation to Monitoring, Evaluation, Recording & Reporting.

Contribute to the development of new Planning Formats taking account of emerging technologies to identify short-term, medium-term & long-term objectives.

Pupil & Curriculum Development:

To develop the integration of UICT (in particular addressing the 5Es) using iPad technology throughout the teaching & learning of Literacy & Numeracy.

Implement a range of teaching strategies to support children with Additional or Special Educational Needs access the curriculum, in particular addressing those with specific literacy difficulties.

Personal & Professional:

Participate in the Literacy SEN CPD programme in conjunction with St. Mary's UC & Stranmillis UC.

Participate in training sessions in the use of iPad technology to support learning & teaching.

Share good practice with others through participation in St Comgall's TeachMeets, Team-Teaching & Professional Planning Time.

Principal's PRSD took place on **9/6/16** – Governors & External Advisor:
Mrs Cathy Hunter, Mr Brian Jamison, Mrs Susie Johnston (CCMS Advisor)

All staff completed PRSD & EPD this year to a very high standard.

Monitoring & Evaluation Processes 2015-2016

<u>Learning Area</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Co-ordinator</u>	<u>Monitoring Visits & Work Samples</u>	<u>Evidence</u>
Language & Literacy	Active Learning in: Guided Reading Handwriting Review Comprehension Strategies AFL & Differentiation – links to SEN Literacy Difficulties Cross-Curricular Skills – integration of iPad technology	Miss Mullally & Literacy Team: CH, CC, SE	Term 1 PRSD Visit	Planners Term 1
				PIE 2015 Analysis Targets Term 1a
		Mr Noble	Term 2 Co-ord Visit Monitoring of IEPs / RoC	Amazing Author Term 2b
				Literacy Book Look Term 3a
				PIE Results & Analysis Term 3b
Mathematics	Active Learning in:	Miss Carey &	Term 2	Planners Term 2



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& Numeracy	Teaching Measures	Numeracy Team GW, SP	Co-ordinator Visits	PIM 2015 Analysis Targets Term 1a
	Balance between Number & Topic Work			Maths Magician Term 1b
	Problem-Solving Strategies & Investigation			Numeracy Book Look Term 2b
	Cross-Curricular & TSPC - integration of iPad technology			PIM Results & Analysis Term 3
	Outdoor Maths	Mr Noble	PRSD Visits by Principal	Monitoring of IEPs / RoC
	AFL & Differentiation & Sharing Good Practice - links to SEN Difficulties			
Cross – Curricular Skills Promotion	Cross-Curricular Skills – <i>Using Mathematics, Using ICT & Communication</i> – used to support TWAU, PDMU, STEM	Mrs Lavery	PRSD Visits	Planners Action Plans & SDP
				Planning Board Photos Termly
	School Award Programmes			Evidence Folders & Displays Term 1-3
	iTeach Champion School Roots of Empathy Eco-School Global Partnership Rights-Respecting School			
UICT	UICT (CCEA Tasks)	Miss Walker & UICT & ESafety Team	PRSD Visits by Principal Term 1 & 2	Planners Term 2 & 3
	Integration of iPad technology to enhance Teaching & Learning			UICT Portfolios &/or Book Looks Term 3
	Focus on: Express & Exchange (5Es)			ICT Whizz Kid Term 1
	Compilation of Pupil Digital Learning Portfolios			
	AFL & Creative Learning Opportunities (TSPC)		Term 3 Co-ordinator Visits	
Pastoral Care	Promotion of PDMU Strands & Thinking Skills NSPCC Safeguarding School Counsellor School Council & Prefects	Miss Higgins	Ongoing	Ongoing...
	Incorporating RE, RSE,			Planners Book Looks

Faith & Culture	Sacraments, Ethos, PDMU & Diocesan Resources	Mrs Parker	Ongoing	Homework Surveys Work Samples Short Visits Pupil Feedback Events Photos etc
PE	Progression of PE P1-7 PE linked to Thematic Planning Use of FMS @ FS/KS1 Promotion of Healthy Eating & Lifestyle (NHS) (BASE)	Mr Ennis	Ongoing	
The Arts	Linking The Arts to Thematic WAU Planning The Arts in TWAU, PBL & ABL activities	Mrs Parker, Mrs Taylor-Wilson	Ongoing	

Enrolment & Transfer 2015-2016

New Pupils 2015-2016

Forty-Three pupils enrolled in Primary One in September 2015, bringing the enrolment figure to 297.

This fluctuated slightly this year ending the year on a current enrolment (as of June 2016) of **299** pupils.

Open Enrolment

We had **41** places for admission to Primary 1 in September 2016.

We were once again over-subscribed but were granted 3 additional places by way of Temporary Variation from the DE.

We also operate a Waiting List of additional enquiries for places in Primary 2-7.

Our projected enrolment for September 2016 (based on data June 2016) was **305** pupils.

Transfer to Post-Primary

We had 35 Primary Seven pupils transferring to Post-Primary Education in September 2016. One of these pupils had a Statement of Special Educational Needs and chose to transfer directly to Lagan College (this was denied and is under appeal).

Some pupils chose to engage in the unregulated Common Entrance Examination Process.

Other children chose to transfer directly to our local Catholic Post-Primary, St Columbanus' College.

Post-Primary School Allocations

School	No of Pupils Transferring
OLSPCK	14
St Columbanus' College	8
Sullivan Upper School	1



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Glenlola Collegiate	3
Lagan College, Belfast	2
Dominican College, Portstewart	1
Campbell College	3
Priory Integrated College	1
Victoria College, Belfast	1

Pupil Progress and Standards of Attainment

Assessment is currently undergoing a major overhaul in Northern Ireland and is currently the subject of public consultation and intense educational and political debate.

In 2015-16, End of Key Stage Assessments were not compulsory although, in St Comgall's PS we have chosen to internally assess our pupils for internal standardisation purposes only.

This data is not comparable as there has been widespread boycott across Northern Ireland.

As per usual moderation practice, St Comgall's PS also administered **NFER Standardised Tests in English (PTE) and Mathematics (PTM)** during April & May 2016.

Annual written Progress Reports were sent home to parents on Tuesday 28th June 2016.

Additional Support to enhance Curricular Provision

Organisation	Area of the Curriculum	Year Group
Irish Football Association	Football	P1-P7
PSNI	Personal Development Citizenship Bee Safe Programme	P7
NI Fire & Rescue Service	Fire Safety & Community Workers	P5
North Down Borough Council	Citizenship Environmental Awareness The Arts	P1-P7
SEELB Music Tuition	Violin, Cello, Brass Instruments	Pupils from P3-P7
Bryson House	Renewable Energy Talks	P1-P7
School Nurse	Health Education Talks	P1 & P7
NSPCC & Childline	Child Protection, Anti-Bullying & Safety Awareness	P1-P7
Sport NI	Multi-Sports	P1-P7
Ulster GAA	Gaelic Football	P1-4
Sentinus STEM Outreach	STEM Workshops	P6-7
EA - SER	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Challenge	P7
Clare Mc Mahon	The Arts & Drama	P1-7

BASE: Before & After School Engagement 2015-2016



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In addition to curricular enhancement within school time, St Comgall's also offers a host of **Before & After School Club/Activity Provision**.

Sincere thanks to **Mr Sean Ennis** (PE, Health & Sport Co-ordinator) for his hard work in arranging such a wealth of activities for our pupils.

Breakfast Club operates daily 8am – 8.45am ably led by **Miss Pickard** and **Mrs Mc Loughlin**.

In addition, after-school clubs are available for P1-7pupils daily from 2-4pm. These include:

- Drama
- Multisports
- Gymnastics
- Football
- Gaelic Football
- Netball
- Golf
- Hip-Hop & Zumba
- Irish Dancing
- Traditional Music Group
- Choir

Our sincere thanks to all club leaders and coaches.

Parent Teacher Association



St. Comgall's PS has a very strong and active Parent Teacher Association.

These parent/carers give generously of their time and talents to organise fundraising activities to support the acquisition of additional, otherwise unaffordable, resources for the pupils.

They also support and attend Pastoral & Sacramental Events.

They are a very essential asset to the continued success of events run by the school.

In 2015-16 they financed the Family Works School Counsellor, sportswear, medals and much needed new reading materials for our newly established school library. They also provide refreshments and treats for the children and parents at key events in the life of the school.

On behalf of the Governors and entire school community of St Comgall's PS, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to this group for their amazing commitment, enthusiasm and hard work and, in particular to the new Chair, **Mrs Tracey Stirling**, and her wonderful committee/team.

***PTA Statement of Accounts: Treasurer's Report 2015-2016**

Please find below an outline of the income/expenditure for St Comgalls PTA for financial year 1st September 2015 – 31st August 2016

Current Account

Income

Expenditure



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Balance carried forward from 2014/2015 £655.82

Lodgements 2015/2016

Halloween Disco	£763.57
Self Defence class	£85.00
Christmas Ballot	£1099.40
Valentine Disco	£869.67
Golf Day	£3016.00
Summer Ballot	£1192.70
Junior Sports Day Coffee	£160.80
Donation (Golf Day)	£100.00
Total for events	£7287.14
Transfer from Select Account	£3000.00

Expenditure

Counsellor	£3000.00
Bank Fees	£123.69
Events	£2910.80
PTA Insurance	£101.00
	<u>£10942.96</u>
	<u>£6135.49</u>

Balance carried forward to 2016/2017 £4807.47

Select Account Financial Statement 2015/2016

Income

Expenditure

Balance Carried Forward from 2014/2015 £9509.56

Lodgements 2015/2016

Bank Interest £3.74

Expenditure 2015/2016

Transfer to St Comgalls School Account Sports Kits	£1000.00
Transfer to PTA current account – counsellor	£3000.00
	<u>£9513.30</u>
	<u>£4000.00</u>

Balance Carried Forward to 2016/2017 £5513.30

These statements represent my best understanding of the receipts/monies/operation of the PTA accounts current and select during the period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016.

Carol Boal 5th September 2016

Communicating School Life 2015 – 2016

This has been an incredibly busy but enjoyable year which saw our pupils enjoy a wide range of curriculum enhancing experiences. Our **School Newsletter** in its calendar format and the school Twitter Feed (**@ComgallsBangor**) provide up-to-date tasters of all that is going on in our school



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daily. We treached almost 1000 followers in 2015-2016 and found Twitter to be not only a great communicatiin and PR tool, but an excellent way to make connections and links with other schools and educators. The whole-school rollout of **Seesaw** – a digital learning platform to display pupils' work – was a huge success and all pupils tracked and recorded their work digitally across the year to share with their parents. We continue to avail of text messaging and email services to parents also.

Other Events 2015-2016

Sacraments & Catholic Faith Development

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated 31st Jan – 5th February 2016.

Service of Light & Commitment: Took place on Monday 18th April 2016 I preparation for Confirmation.

Confirmation: The P7 boys and girls were joined with P7 pupils from St Malachy's, St Anne's & Bangor Central Primary Schools in making their Confirmation.

The children were confirmed by Bishop Farquhar on Friday 13th May 2016.

First Penance: The Primary Three Boys and Girls received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Penance) on Wednesday 2nd March 2016.

St Comgall's 125 Year Mass was celebrated on Tuesday 10th May, the Feast Day of St Comgall.

First Holy Communion was celebrated on Saturday 4th June 2016.

Mrs Hunter, on behalf of the whole school community, would like to express sincere thanks to **Father Joseph Gunn** for his ongoing support and dedication in his role as School Chaplain.

Other Events:

Hollywood Music Festival: We were thrilled that our Traditional Music Group came 1st in the Hollywood Music Festival for the 10th year in a row – Amazing! We were especially pleased that so many of our individual musicians were recognised – congratulations to them all! My sincere thanks to **Mrs Sharon Parker, Miss Julie-Anne Mullally & Mr Niall Mc Clean** for all of their hard work, time and energy in working with these young superstars.

Open Day and Evening: Wednesday 2nd December 2015 – a great success! This was very well attended as reflected in the enrolment figures for September 2016.

Catholic Schools Week: This was celebrated from 31st January – 5th February. Events were held throughout the week including a special school Mass and Grandparents' Assembly. These were very well attended and were a credit to the inclusive, welcoming ethos throughout the school.

Peace Proms Choir: For the second year in a row the school choir were invited to participate in the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland's Annual Peace Proms Concert. This year the event took place in the Odyssey Arena, Belfast and was attended by local dignitaries and 3000 pupils from across Northern Ireland. The children performed a medley of hits and specially commissioned songs. A great time was had by all and the children gained a lot in terms of performance skill, confidence and meeting new people. We had great support from our families who bought tickets and came along on the day also. Mrs Hunter would like to express her thanks to **Mr Bernard Noble, Mrs Sharon Parker & Mrs Regina Mc Callion** for their help and time in preparing the choir.



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Bangor Speech & Drama Festival: On their second year entering St Comgall's Choral Speaking Groups again came 1st & 2nd in their respective age categories – an amazing achievement! Individual pupils from P1-P7 also recited and performed poetry from specially chosen authors and we had many award winners. Congratulations to all of our boys and girls who took part! Thanks also to **Mrs Clare Gould** for her support.

Fundraising, Charitable & Pastoral Events:

St. Comgall's PS is a caring community which embodies the Catholic faith and models Jesus' message of 'Love of Neighbour'.

In 2015-2016 we supported the following charities in order to assist others.

Children in Need
Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal
St Vincent de Paul
Trocaire
Action Cancer
British Heart Foundation

School Accommodation

The school is very well maintained by an excellent, hard-working Building Supervisor and his Cleaning Staff.

Throughout 2015-2016 previous on-going issues within the school were finally addressed as funding was made available for our previous Minor Works Applications.

As a result, new CCTV (Child Protection) and Security features were installed including secure access points to the external doors, requiring the use of fobs to enter the building.

In addition, new bathroom facilities were fitted throughout the school with new flooring, plumbing and bathroom furniture included – a fantastic job which has made such a difference!

A third application for the replacement of one of the Mobile Classrooms has been approved and Planning Application processes are in place.

Mrs Hunter, on behalf of the entire school community, would like to express her sincere thanks to **Mr Paul Busby** for his extremely high level of care and pride in this school and for his generous nature and commitment to providing the best learning environment for our pupils.

FINANCE – Local Management of Schools (LMS)



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The school budget is robustly monitored by the Principal and the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. Regular meetings ensure that the school is resourced to the best of our ability in line with the priorities on the School Development Plan. We are indebted to the expertise of this Committee.

***At the time of print LMS Outturn Statements were unavailable to schools**

Future Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
Over-subscribed Enrolment & Waiting List 12 Classes Happy, fixed permanent Staff New 3 Year SDP 2015-2018	290 Capped Enrolment – very limiting Limited Space within School Building Making the most of our Budget in light of capped enrolment & rising staff/utility costs Lack of training & support from CASS
Active Learning & Teaching Methodologies iPad Technology	Post-Primary Transfer Uncertainty & parental expectations for support from School Community Lack of Funding/Training/Support for SEN pupils Need for teacher training to meet needs of ALL pupils
Carefully Managed Budget	*Three Year Plan (taking account of Rising Costs) would indicate going into deficit very soon Sustainability – Serious concern over Rising Costs Capped enrolment figures mean no access to additional funding
Staffing Restructuring	Lack of CASS Support & Finance for CPD Expenses
ETI Report & Positive Feedback Reputation for excellence Schhol Awards & Achievements	Sustaining & improving upon current provision & Academic Performance Improving upon Teaching & Learning Provision to sustain Outstanding iPad technology rollout: Embedding new Teaching Methodologies & Technology – lack of funding
Vibrant school community & active parental involvement Partnerships with External Agents to extend opening hours and services.	Lack of funding & support to administer parental workshop programmes Lack of funding. School Community 'buy-in' needs to be high. Need for fundraising.
Purchase of iPad Technology	Plans to ensure 1:1 provision. Finances required. Need for school community to support the bid and raise funds.

Glossary of Terms:

DE	Department of Education
BOG	Board of Governors
EA	Education Authority
KS	Key Stage
SDP	School Development Plan
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SDD	School Development Days
CPD	Continued Professional Development
EPD	Early Professional Development



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PRSD	Performance Review & Staff Development
CASS	Curriculum Advisory & Support Service
EA - SER	Education Authority South Eastern Region
LMS	Local Management of Schools
CCMS	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
CCEA	Council for Curriculum Examinations & Assessment

Thank you for your time in consideration of this document
Cathy Hunter - September 2016



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