



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 2020 - 2021

[www.stcomgallsps.co.uk](http://www.stcomgallsps.co.uk)

Twitter: @StComgallsPS

Principal: Mrs Cathy Hunter



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**Thank you for your time and support for the life & work of  
St. Comgall's Primary School**



## Chairperson's Address 2020-21

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

The last 12-18 months have been exceptionally challenging for us all and although the outlook is slightly better the reality is that the challenges of Covid-19 are very real and very much still present.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, St Comgall's School Community have continued to work together to nurture, care and support each other in what has been another incredibly difficult school year. I'd like to commend all families for working in continued partnership with the school staff to ensure that pupils kept learning and that school remained as safe a place as could be under the exceptional circumstances. Moving forward, for the safety of all, please continue to adhere to school guidance as we endeavour to provide as normal as possible return to school routines.

### **On behalf of the Board of Governors I present the Annual Report for the Academic Year 2020/21.**

This year's report acknowledges the incredible work of the staff and children and pays tribute to the school community's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Lockdown brought about many challenges and hardship for us all. The Governors pray that all families remain safe and well and seek to reassure all families of our ongoing commitment to help where we can.

Carrying on from 2019-20, it was clear for all to see that St Comgall's continued to strive for excellence in all areas of the curriculum, academically and, in particular, pastorally throughout 2020-21.

The Governors wish to commend the tireless work of the Staff, acknowledging the very real challenges they each experienced and the level of commitment and service they continued to provide to families at St Comgall's. It's also important to note the excellent partnership from parents and the high level of parental engagement in the best interests of pupils throughout the last year.

Hailed by both CCEA and Stranmillis University College as a showcase school for best practice, these agencies highlighted the work of our school staff in Early Years practice, Learning Environment design and the use of educational technology to support remote home learning during periods of lockdown.

Governors wish to acknowledge the team efforts of the **entire staff, both teaching and non-teaching**, for all that they did to keep the school clean and open to key worker and vulnerable children throughout lockdown, whilst continuing to provide high quality teaching & learning and retaining a sense of community remotely via their thoughtful engagements and interaction on Seesaw. They are also to be praised for their sensitive handling of the return to school and the pastoral care afforded to each child's reintegration into school routines and experiences.

During 2020-21 the school said farewell to two long-serving members of Staff, **Mrs Regina McCallion**, released from post in November 2020 and **Mr Bernard Noble**, in August 2021.

The Governors and Staff wish to place on record their thanks to these two highly talented teachers and wish them both well in their new schools and onward career paths.

Governors would also like to continue to pay tribute to the **School PTA, Volunteers and Supporters**. Your financial and community support ensured vital counselling services and pupil celebrations continued. Now more than ever, the need for financial support continues and whilst we acknowledge the wide range of family circumstances, we ask that all families offer their support to the PTA financially and/or with their time, talents and ideas.

I commend this report and the work of the school to you and emphasise to 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*

**Chair of the Board of Governors**

## VISION STATEMENT

*“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”*

St Comgall's is committed to the aims and ideals of Catholic education and through this, we seek 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.*

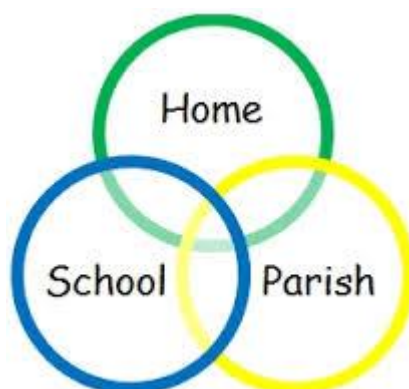


## **STATEMENT OF SCHOOL AIMS**

# *“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”*

### **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 & Achievements**

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.

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 Library/ICT Zone, 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.

In December 2016 through Minor Works Application, a state-of-the-art replacement P5 Mobile Classroom was installed with the latest Clevertouch Technology. A further application to replace the Upper Playground Mobile was turned down by EA.

An ***"Investors in People Silver Award School" (2010)*** we value and invest heavily in the training of our staff. Staff are involved in a number of initiatives which further enhance the curricular programmes within the school.

In June 2019, we became proud holders of our second ***Eco-Schools Green Flag Award*** having previously been awarded in 2016. We were also awarded Fair Achiever School status in June 2019 – the only school in the Borough to have achieved this.

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 to enrich our learning with school based projects linked with 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***.

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

Our ***Unicef Rights-Respecting School 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. In May 2018 we achieved ***Bronze Sustrans Active Travel Award***.

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, Parent Learning Workshops and more.**





### Parent Teacher Association

We are blessed to have had the support of a very enthusiastic and **Parent Teacher Association** who worked tirelessly to source and provide additional funding for the school through regular fundraising activities and grant applications.

Presently they finance our School Family Works Counsellor who provides 1:1 counselling for children who have suffered through bereavement, illness, family issues or anxiety.

They also supported projects such as the development of our outdoor areas, purchase of additional sports equipment, sports day medals and team clothing, as well as supporting our 2018 full school production of 'Matilda' and fundraising for additional Play equipment.

Their motto is '**Pay It Forward**' and all classes/families are encouraged to buy into the idea of making a better future for the next and giving something back. This generates a true sense of Community and ensures that everyone is treated equally and fairly in the distribution of resources and services, especially at important and momentous occasions such as Sacramental celebrations.



## Enrolment & Pupil Profile

(\*Please note not all data available at time of print)

Enrolment Profile	Data Year					
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Enrolment P1-7	299	309	322	312	303	309
FSM %	11.4	9.7	9.9	9.9	*	8.5
FSM Pupils within P1-7	34	30	32	31	*	26
SEN % Stages 1-4	14.0	7.8	17.1	19.6	*	20.1
SEN Pupils Stages 1-4	42	24	55	61	*	62
SEN Stage 5%	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.2	*	2.6
SEN Stage 5 Pupils	9	10	9	10	*	8
Newcomer Pupils %	2.0	3.9	4.0	1.6	*	*
Newcomer Pupils P1-7	6	12	13	5	*	*
Looked After Children (LAC) %	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0.3
Looked After Children (LAC) Pupils P1-7	0	1	1	1	0	1

Source: Annual DE Census

## Pupil Attendance

Pupil Attendance	Data Year					
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Pupil Attendance P1-7 %	96.8	96.3	96.7	96.3	96.7	98.1
NI Average Attendance %	95.5	95.5	94.9	*	*	*

Source: Annual DE Census

Attendance in St Comgall's PS is not a cause for concern.

We exceed the NI Average each year. For those pupils whose attendance/punctuality falls below expectations, in consultation with the School Education Welfare Officer (EWO), individual targets and monitoring arrangements are put in place.



## Pupil Teacher Ratios

PTR	Data Year					
	17/18	15/16	16/17	18/19	19/20	20/21
School Pupil Teacher Ratio	23.3	23.0	23.8	26.0	27.5	21.8
NI PTR	21.7	21.4	21.4	22.2	*	*

Source: Annual DE Census & Teachers Payroll

In Summer Term 2020, in light of Covid-19 and with ongoing concern for class size and the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff, the Governors of St Comgall's PS instructed the Principal to reconfigure the classes to create dual entry, 14 straight classes P1-7.

Prior to this decision, St Comgall's PS Bangor was the only school in the town forced by accommodation/budget/admissions number to operate larger and in some cases composite classes.

The Governors recognise the inequity experienced by staff and pupils of St Comgall's which only serves to make more incredible their achievement and maintenance of 'outstanding' status in such ongoing challenging circumstances.

In light of lockdowns, Covid-19, and the increasing number of children presenting with Special or Additional Educational Needs pressures on staff have greatly risen in recent years.

## 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 addition 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.

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/intervention 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 since September 2015, has been supported by the services of a highly-experienced, full-time **Learning Support** assistant, **Mrs Janet Mullan**, to provide individual and small group withdrawal as a **short-term intervention strategy**.

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

St Comgall's also avails of additional support for our pupils and staff from Educational Psychology (EPS), Education Welfare (EWO), ASD Service, LSS, RISE, 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. 21% of pupils are recognised as having an additional or special educational need with almost 3% 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** (May 2017).



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 (BPFS)** – St Anne’s PS, St Malachy’s PS & St Columbanus’ College - to foster, nurture, develop and promote the Catholic faith, Christian values and to secure in our pupils a Love of God & Love of Neighbour.

### Inter-Generational & Community Partnership



In addition to the BPFS and our many collaborative links and programmes, St Comgall’s has also established strong transition and partnership links with our local Pre-School providers –St Comgall’s Pre-School (based in St Comgall’s Parish Centre) and Trinity Nursery School also situated on the Brunswick Road.

We are also proud to link with St Comgall’s Senior Citizen Friendship Club, Bryansburn Care Home & Oakmont Care Home to develop intergenerational links through The Arts and Eco-Schools.

### 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.

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. Our P7 Pupil Leadership Team & Prefects are excellent ambassadors for our school.

The warm welcome and behaviour of our pupils is often commended by visitors and was noted as ‘***exemplary***’ in our 2017 inspection and the standard of Pastoral Care as ‘***outstanding***’.



## **St Comgall's PS Leadership 2020-21**

### **Structure**

**Principal – Mrs C Hunter**

**(SMT)**

**Vice-Principal – Miss A Higgins**



### **SLT**

**Miss B Carey**

**Mr B Noble**

**Mrs C Lavery**

**Mr S Ennis**

### **Middle Leadership Team (MLT)**

**Miss N O'Connor (UIC)**

**Miss D Savage (Sport/PE)**

### **Key Stage Leaders**

#### **Foundation Stage**

**Mrs Lavery**

#### **Key Stage One**

**Mr Noble**

#### **Key Stage Two**

**Miss Carey**

### **Teachers (with Additional Duties)**

**Mrs Monaghan**

**Miss Oliver**

**Mrs Parker**

**Miss Graham**

**Mrs Mc Callion**

All staff support each other through Co-ordination Focus Teams

**Link Governors provide additional support**

### Co-ordination Focus Teams 2020-21

<b><u>Subject / Learning Area</u></b>	<b><u>Led By:</u></b>	<b><u>Supported By: Focus Team</u></b>
Literacy incl Library Provision & Bookfairs	Mr Ennis	Mrs Hunter, Mrs Lavery, Miss Carey, Miss Reid
Numeracy	Miss Carey	Mrs Monaghan & Miss Graham
UICT, E-Safety, Digital Leaders/Learning/Marketing	Miss O'Connor	Mrs Hunter & Miss Higgins
Assessment (MER)	Miss Carey	Mrs Hunter, Mr Ennis & Mr Noble
<u>World Around Us</u> (incl PBL/ABL) Outdoor Learning, Global Learning Partnership (GLP), & STEM	Mrs Lavery	Mrs Monaghan, Miss McKillop & Miss Oliver
Eco/FairTrade Committee, School Environment & Community Links	Miss Oliver	Miss McKillop, Miss McCaughey PTA & Mr Busby
The Arts (Culture)	Art, Music, Drama Team	<b>Choir/Music:</b> Mrs McCallion, Miss Graham & Miss Reid <b>Trad &amp; EA Music:</b> Mrs Parker & Miss McCleery <b>Drama:</b> Mrs Monaghan & Mrs Hunter <b>Art:</b> Miss McKillop
Faith & Culture including BPFS & Inter-Generational Partnership	Mrs Parker	Mrs Hunter & BPFS Network
PDMU, Pastoral Care, RSE, Pupil Well-Being, Discipline, Parental Liaison, Safeguarding	Miss Higgins (DT) (VP)	Mr Ennis (DDT), Mrs Hunter, Mrs Parker (RSE) & Miss O'Connor (eSafety)
Risk Assessment, Health & Safety	Miss Higgins	Mrs Hunter & Mr Busby
Roots of Empathy (RoE)	Mrs Lavery	Miss Higgins
Learning Support	Mr Noble (SENCo)	Mrs Hunter & Miss Carey <b>Learning Support CAs:</b> Mrs Mullan (SEN) Miss Pickard & Mrs Kane (Numeracy Support)
PE, Health, Sport, Daily Mile, Sustrans, BASE Activities & Competing Teams	Miss Savage	Miss Gilligan, Mrs Boal, Mr Ennis
School Council, Pupil Voice, School PR & Pupil Leadership	Mrs Hunter	Miss McCaughey, Miss Higgins & Miss O'Connor
Pupil Transition	Mrs Hunter	Mrs Lavery, Mr Noble, Miss Carey
Pre-School Committee	Mrs Hunter	Mr Noble & Mrs Lavery / Miss Higgins (DT)
Shared Education, Awards & Community Initiatives	Mr Ennis (Peace IV) CASE	Mrs Hunter & All Staff

## St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

### Board of Governors 2020-2021

Very Reverend Fr Joe Gunn

**Mr Brian Jamison**

Mr Pat Mc Cartan

Mrs Pat Mc Quillan

Mrs Cecilia Mc Mahon

Mr Tony Slack

Mr Ray Havlin

Mr Bernard Noble

Mr Anthony Mc Brearty

Miss Anne Higgins

Mrs Cathy Hunter

Trustee

**Chairperson & Trustee**

Vice-Chair & DE Representative

Trustee

EA Representative

EA Representative

Parent Trustee

Teacher Representative

Parent Representative

Vice-Principal (co-opted)

Principal & Secretary to Governors

**PRSD Arrangements 2020-2021:** The common foci for PRSD this year were:

#### **Professional Practice:**

Contribute to the review, development and implementation of Year 23 **School Development Plan** (2018-21) and in particular, areas highlighted as Year 3 Priorities.

Maintain high quality Year Group Planning Folders incorporating Evidence (MER) and Data Tracking.

Continue to **share & engage in good practice** with staff through participation in e.g. St Comgall's Key Stage Team Meetings, Google Drive, Staff CPD, School Staff Social Media & Professional Planning Time etc.

Maintain an **active class portfolio on Seesaw**.

Develop Outdoor Learning opportunities associated to Pupil Wellbeing Focus.

Apply Reggio Principles / Sensory Detox strategies in classroom environment design.

#### **Pupil & Curriculum Development:**

**Literacy Focus: Talking & Listening** – Developing Listening Skills & Promoting Vocabulary Development. Confident Speakers.

Promotion of Guided Reading, Literature Circles, Writing for an Audience, Opportunities for Performance/Presentation – links to UICT Podcasting/Blogging etc.

**Numeracy Focus:** Processes & Articulation (Math Talk).

Verbalising learning through discussion around strategies.

Active Maths learning connected to real-life examples where possible. The promotion of Practical Maths strategies in whole class teaching.

Develop Outdoor Learning opportunities associated to wellbeing Focus.

Further develop use of **Seesaw Portfolios** to showcase learning processes and (as apt) offer Tutorials/Parental Guidance to support/connect learning from School to Home.

**UICT Focus** (addressing the 5Es) across the curriculum ensuring a **balance between C2K & iPad** technology/tasks.

Promote the school's **Digital Vision:** Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Confidence.

Promote & develop opportunities for **Pupil (& Staff) Wellbeing** through Mindfulness, Sport, The Arts, Outdoor Learning etc



## Personal & Professional:

**Personal Wellbeing:** Participate in School Staff & Pupil Wellbeing Programmes/Training. Seek to manage own time more effectively, try to pace workload, seeking help from colleagues and working collaboratively as apt.

Maintain a strong commitment to CPD. Seek out relevant personal and professional development opportunities. Remain an informed, reflective practitioner.

**Principal's PRSD** was scheduled to take place in May 2021 – Governors & External Advisor – but DE paused all PRSD activity due to Covid-19.

**Reviewee:** Mrs Cathy Hunter

**Reviewers:** Mr Brian Jamison, Mrs Cecilia McMahon, Mrs Susie Johnston (CCMS Advisor)

## Monitoring & Evaluation Processes 2020-2021

<u>Learning Area</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Co-ordinator</u>	<u>Monitoring Visits &amp; Work Samples</u>	<u>Evidence</u>
<b>Language &amp; Literacy</b>	<b><u>Communication:</u></b>  TSPC within Talking & Listening – links to SEBW (Wellbeing)  Cross-Curricular Skills – integration of UICT  Literature Circles (KS2)  Promotion of Writing Process & reading for pleasure ( <b>Wellbeing</b> )	<b>Mr Ennis</b>	PRSD Visit/ Co-ord Visit  Collegiate Book Monitoring  Monitoring of IEPs / RoC  <u>Assessments:</u> PM Benchmarking, Reading Age Tests, Schonell Spelling, SWST, CAT, PTE etc	<b>Planners: Term 2</b>
				PTE *2019 & Recent Benchmarking & Reading Age Analysis <b>Targets Term 1a</b>
				<b>Principal PRSD/EPD Visits Term 1</b>
				<b>Literacy Review &amp; Visits (CBM) Term 1 &amp; 2</b>
				PTE Results & Analysis <b>Term 3b</b>
<b>Mathematics &amp; Numeracy</b>	<b><u>Communication:</u></b>  Cross-Curricular & TSPC - integration – <b>Maths Talk</b>  Maths Processes & Vocabulary. Reduced maths Anxieties.  Balance between Number & Topic Work  Real life & Problem-Solving Strategies & Investigation	<b>Miss Carey</b>	Co-ordinator PRSD Visits  Collegiate Book Monitoring  Monitoring of IEPs / RoC  <u>Assessments:</u> CAT, PTM, Class Assessments	<b>Planners: Term 1b</b>
				PTM *2019 Analysis <b>Targets Term 1a</b>
				<b>Maths Week – Evidence Review &amp; PRSD/EPD Term 1a</b>
				<b>Numeracy CBM &amp; Visits Term 1&amp;2 Term 2</b>
				PTM Results & Analysis <b>Term 3</b>
<b>UICT</b>	Balance between iPad & C2K technology to enhance Teaching & Learning	<b>Miss O'Connor</b>	<b>Co-ordinator Visits</b>  <b>Seesaw Monitoring</b>  <b>School ICT Events</b>	Planners Ongoing
				<b>UICT Seesaw Portfolios &amp; CBM Term 1-3</b>

	Blended Learning Development (Seesaw) Compilation of Digital Learning Portfolios – Seesaw  Google Docs & Drive  Use of ICT to support <b><u>'Let's Talk Learning'</u></b> & Processes, TSPC & <b>Wellbeing</b>  ESafety Promotion		<b>Planners</b>  <b>Internet Safety Activities, Keeping Safe &amp; other activities eg Google Internet Legends etc</b>	Support for Awards ongoing
<b>Cross – Curricular Skills Promotion</b>  <b>School Awards</b>	Cross-Curricular Skills – <i>Using Mathematics, Using ICT &amp; <b>Communication</b></i> – used to support <b>WAU</b> , PDMU, PE, <b>STEM</b>  Shared Education Sustrans Roots of Empathy Eco-School Global Partnership Rights-Respecting School	<b>Miss O'Connor (UIC)</b>  <b>Mrs Lavery</b> <b>Mr Ennis</b> <b>Miss Savage</b> <b>Mrs Lavery</b> <b>Miss Oliver</b> <b>Mrs Hunter</b> <b>Miss McCaughey</b>	<b>Co-ordinator Visits</b>  <b>CBM/Book Looks</b>  <b>Working towards Achievement of Awards</b>	<b>Planners</b>  <b>Action Plans &amp; SDP</b>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>  <b>Faith / RE</b>	Promotion of PDMU Strands & Thinking Skills <b>NSPCC Safeguarding &amp; Keeping Safe Programme</b> School Counsellor <b>School Council &amp; Pupil Leadership/Voice</b>  Incorporating RE, RSE, Sacraments, Ethos, PDMU & Diocesan Resources	<b>Miss Higgins</b>  <b>Mrs Hunter</b>  <b>Mrs Parker</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>	<b><u>'Let's Talk Learning'</u></b>  <b>Ongoing...</b>  Planners Book Looks Homework Surveys Work Samples Short Visits Pupil Feedback *Pupil Presentations *Assemblies *Events Photos etc  <b><u>*Subject to Covid restrictions</u></b>  <b><u>PRSD 2020-21:</u></b> (see timetable)
<b>PE</b>	Progression of PE P1-7 Promotion of <b><u>Pupil WellBeing</u></b> : Growth Mindset, Resilience, Healthy Eating & Lifestyle (BASE) Links to Shared Education	<b>Miss Savage</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
<b>The Arts (Culture)</b>	Linking The Arts to WAU Planning PBL & ABL activities, <b>WELLBEING</b>	<b>Collective Staff</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	

## **Enrolment & Transfer 2020-2021**

### **New Pupils 2020-2021**

Fifty-One pupils enrolled in Primary One in September 2020.

We were again oversubscribed and unfortunately further families were disappointed not to have been granted places despite repeated attempts at Temporary Variations for additional places.

We remain clearly and consistently over-subscribed.

### **Open Enrolment**

We were again allocated **41** places for admission to Primary 1 in September 2021, however we received **129** total applications. We accepted **46** P1 pupils in line with the number of SEN Statemeted pupils supernumerary in our school which would not require a TV application as this had been declined by DE.

We currently have a Waiting List for places in all year groups throughout the school.

Our projected enrolment for September 2021 (based on data June 2021) is **308** pupils.

### **Transfer to Post-Primary**

Forty-nine Primary Seven pupils transferred to Post-Primary Education in September 2021.

Due to Covid-19, the unregulated Common Entrance Examinations could not follow normal processes. Post-Primary Schools were forced to admit pupils on Entrance Criteria alone which meant that many of our pupils who would have traditionally accessed Grammar schools were prevented from doing so due to catchment and sibling criteria.

On the reverse, some pupils may have also accessed Grammar Schools when traditionally this may have been out of their reach.

Increasingly, a large percentage of children have chosen to opt-out of the tests in favour of direct transfer to our BPFS all-ability, non-selective Post-Primary partner, St Columbanus' College.

### **Post-Primary School Allocations**

<b>School</b>	<b>No of Pupils Transferring</b>
OLSPCK	16
St Columbanus' College	25
Sullivan Upper School	4
Bangor Grammar	1
Regent House School	3

**We wish all of our P7 Leavers every success and happiness in their new schools.**

## Pupil Progress and Standards of Attainment

St Comgall's PS continue to closely monitor and track the progress of all of our pupils and regularly meet to discuss and agree internal standardisation of pupil work across the school.

The Engage Programme was used to support pupils who had struggled in areas of Literacy (SENCo Mr Noble) and/or pastorally (DT Miss Higgins & Counsellor Sharman) during Lockdown.

Engage Summary Evaluations were presented to Governors in June 2021.

As per usual moderation practice, St Comgall's PS administered **NFER Standardised Tests** in **English (PTE)** and **Mathematics (PTM)** in late May 2021.

Annual written Progress Reports were made available to parents on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

## Additional Support to enhance Curricular Provision

\*Please note that not all activities completed due to Covid-19 Lockdown

Organisation	Area of the Curriculum	Year Group
BiTC Time to Read Partnership	Literacy: Reading	P5
SUSTRANS	Active Travel & Road Safety	P1-7
Irish Football Association	Football	P1-P7
PSNI	PDMU, Citizenship, Parent Workshops, Bee Safe Programme	P7
*NI Fire & Rescue Service	Fire Safety & Community Workers	P5
*North Down Borough Council	Citizenship Environmental Awareness The Arts Helping Hands – Women's Aid	P1-P7  P5
NSPCC & Childline	Child Protection, Anti-Bullying & Safety (Keeping Safe Programme)	P1-P7
Sport NI	Multi-Sports	P1-P7
Gymnastics Coaching (Aurora)	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-4
*Swimming Coaching (Aurora)	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P5-7
The Daily Mile	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-7
Yoga & Mindfulness	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-7
*Beach Schools NI & Forest Learning Activities	Outdoor Learning, Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-4

*Shared Education	Physical Education, PDMU, Health & Wellbeing	P5-7
Ulster GAA	Gaelic Football	P1-7
Niall Mc Clean	Traditional Irish Music Tuition	P3-7
Rick Reith	Guitar Lessons	P3-7

### **BASE: Before & After School Engagement 2020-2021**

Unfortunately, in a year dominated by Covid-19 and with schools instructed to work in Bubbles, it was not possible to run our normal BASE (**B**efore & **A**fter **S**chool **E**ngagement) Clubs and Activity Provision.

When circumstances did improve towards the summer term of 2020-21, we did manage to take pupils on a range of educational and social engaging trips and events.

We very much hope for a return of our highly successful BASE Programme in 21-22.

Sincere thanks to **Mr Sean Ennis & Miss Deirbhile Savage** (PE, Health & Sport Co-ordinator) for their hard work in arranging such a wealth of activities for our pupils to experience and to **Mrs Carol Boal** for supporting us with additional netball coaching and support.

Activities include:

- Breakfast Club
- IFA Football & Fundamentals Programmes
- Ulster GAA Fundamentals
- Cross-Country Running
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- iCode
- Badminton
- Swimming
- Yoga
- Irish Dancing
- Drama
- Athletics
- Traditional Music Group
- Choir
- BASECamp After-School Support 2pm - 5pm – led by St Comgall's Classroom Assistants.

**Sincere thanks to all club leaders, coaches and volunteers who contribute so much to enhance the experiences for our pupils. Thank you.**

## Transition:

As part of our Community Outreach Focus we enjoy established and deepening relationships with both St Comgall's Pre-School (three members of staff & two Governors form part of the Committee) and Trinity Nursery School.

Throughout the course of the year both groups were encouraged to use school facilities to support Outdoor Play and Reading Buddy Sessions. Ongoing covid-safe visits between the schools and connections with staff really enhanced and ensured a smoother transition for children transferring to St Comgall's PS.

The benefits of this partnership really came into their own this year when we could not complete our normal Induction & Transition Term 3 programme. The solid relationship between the schools and the fact that the children were already so familiar with St Comgall's school environment and staff was a blessing to us all.

At Post-Primary level, excellent connections have been made with OLSPCK and in particular, St Columbanus' College. We were able to virtually take children on a tour of their prospective new schools. These videos were of great benefit and reassurance to our P7 children.

Year Seven enjoyed practical Transition workshops with Cormac Venney (HiP) as part of Shared Education with Grange Park PS in addition to a number of end of year trips to Ganaway Outdoor Pursuits Trail and Let's Go Hydro Outdoor Water Sports Park.



### Parent Teacher Association

St. Comgall's PS are blessed and very grateful to have such a strong and active Parent Teacher Association.



These wonderful 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 an essential asset to the continued success of events run by the school and we encourage all **parents to get involved in whatever way they can.**

In 2020-21, in addition to financing our FamilyWorks School Counsellor, their fundraising efforts supported the children in experiencing some celebratory events in class bubbles.

Fundraising was very different in respect of Covid-19 but we still managed to enjoy Fancy Dress, Movie Days, Colouring Competitions & Fitness Freddy themed days.

The PTA had intended to support all Sacramental celebrations in addition to numerous Parent Events/Meetings but unfortunately lockdown halted these plans.

On behalf of the Governors and entire school community of St Comgall's PS, I'd like to express my **sincere gratitude** to **the PTA** for their amazing commitment, enthusiasm and hard work and, in particular to **outgoing Committee Member Karen Campbell** and all of the wonderful committee & volunteers for everything they have done for us this year.



**Huge thanks** to the entire school community who support the work of our PTA whether through contributing donations, attending or helping out at events, sponsorship, newsletter design, idea generation, stalls... the list is endless! **We really value all you do!** We are also blessed to have a great group of parents who also support and assist with our many sporting ventures – **you know who you are – THANK YOU!**

### Communicating School Life 2020 – 2021

In another exceptionally difficult year, our pupils still managed to experience and enjoy a wide range of curriculum enhancing experiences. Our **School Newsletter** in its calendar format and the school **Twitter** Feed (**@StComgallsPS**) provide up-to-date tasters of all that is going on in our school daily. We have found Twitter not only to be a great communication and PR tool, but an excellent way to make connections and links with other schools and educators.

The continued whole-school provision of the paid version of **Seesaw For Schools** – a digital learning platform to display pupils' work – continues to be a huge success. Whole-School Weekly News is posted to all parents on Seesaw each Sunday for the week ahead in addition to all pupils tracking and recording their work digitally across the year to share with their parents. Such is the value of this service that **St Comgall's PS continues to fund this provision for parents**. We also continue to avail of text messaging and email services to parents also.

**School Money**, via **eduspot** has eased the stresses on the school office enormously and helped reduce banking fees. We are now fully cashless and grateful for parent support in this matter.



Bangor Parish Family of Schools

### Sacraments & Catholic Faith Formation and Development

**Ongoing Podcasts:** Fr Gunn produced regular podcasts and prayer reflections for the School Community of St Comgall's PS.

**Catholic Schools Week** was celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

**Service of Light & Commitment:** Took place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May & Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in preparation for Confirmation.

**Confirmation:** Was celebrated on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**First Penance:** The Primary Three Boys and Girls received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Penance) on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**First Holy Communion** was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**P7 Leavers' Mass:** was celebrated on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Staff End of Year Mass** was celebrated on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



Mrs Hunter, on behalf of the whole school community, would like to express sincere thanks to **Father Joseph Gunn** for his ongoing support as Parish Priest and School Trustee. We'd also like to thank **Fr Danny Whyte & Deacon James McAllister** for their support too.

### Other Events:

**Music in St Comgall's: Hollywood Music Festival / Ballymena Music Festival:** Unfortunately, despite the hard work and efforts of all our musicians, these festivals could not proceed in 20-21. Sincere thanks to **Mrs Sharon Parker & Mr Niall Mc Clean** for all of their hard work, time and energy in working with our young superstars. **Miss Colleen McCleery** must also be acknowledged for her efforts in keeping the community together with music virtually during lockdown. Hopefully all of our pupils will have opportunity to showcase their talents in 21-22.

**Open Day and Evening:** As Open Night was not possible due to Covid-19, St Comgall's got creative offering virtual tours of our school via our website and social media. We created and added QR codes to our promotional materials which were gifted to all local nursery, pre-school and daycare settings. We are grateful to GreenHouse Films for their support in creating our virtual tour. Interest in enrolment to St Comgall's did not decline during the pandemic as reflected in the enrolment application figures for September 2021.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Was celebrated virtually from **25<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**. Online events were held throughout the week including a special school Mass Podcast and Grandparents' Seesaw activities.

**Annual BPFS Staff Ethos Day:** Unfortunately, this event had to be cancelled in light of Covid-19. St Comgall's were thrilled though to receive their second Spirit of Catholic Education Distinction Award from CTSS.

**Bangor Speech & Drama & International Choral Festival:** Despite having entered many pupils – this event was cancelled as a result of Covid-19.

For a full look at all of the many themed weeks, celebrations and events that took place throughout the year, parents are directed towards their child's Seesaw account as well as the School's Twitter Profile ([@StComgallsPS](https://twitter.com/StComgallsPS)).

### 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 **2020-2021** our priority was to assist our **school community**, particularly those who were struggling financially or emotionally. As a caring, Catholic school we also supported the following charities in order to assist and give back to others. This remains a core element of our **'Take 5'** **'Give'** approach to mental health, resilience and wellbeing.

Children in Need  
Fairtrade UK  
St Vincent de Paul  
InterGenerational & Community Partners  
Our own School Families



## School Accommodation

The school is well maintained by an excellent, hard-working Building Supervisor (**Mr Paul Busby**) and his Cleaning Staff.

The Upper Playground Mobile remains in need of replacement – the PTA did a great job painting it in 2018 to enhance its appearance but, to-date, the EA have declined the application for Minor Works to have the Mobile replaced to meet regulation size, heating and access.

There are a number of ongoing maintenance concerns as referenced in Termly Health & Safety Audits. These include concerns around the pitch of our school roof (In 18-19 some repairs were made to our roof – the pitch is too high and we often get loose tiling which needs to be replaced). The Middle Mobile (P6) has persistently experienced leaks and problems with plumbing/lighting. Toilet facilities (main disabled toilet), door closer issues, drainage and playground surfacing concerns are ongoing and have been raised via EA. It's noted too that other schools have state-of-the-art security, wheelchair accessible, reception areas. Despite having made the case via Minor Works Application previously, this is not the case in St Comgall's and visitor access must be manually monitored.

The EA who have told us that currently there is no money available to carry out some of these repairs. Mr Busby continues to do what he can and reports regularly to Governors through Health & Safety audits.

Space continues to be at a premium both in terms of rooms and playground facilities. We continue to struggle to provide suitable rooms for those providing peripatetic and outreach teaching and for general use such as meeting with parents, SEN Assessment, Physical Education/Clubs, Medical Assessment, Music Tuition and Counselling.

A split lunch format to ease playground burdens implemented in Term 3 2019 has worked effectively to reduce congestion. Continued development of outdoor areas and resource is necessary to support us going forward.

Our sincere thanks to **Father Gunn** and the **Parish Centre Committee** for kindly allowing us continued use of their Hall and side rooms when needed. **We are very grateful for this support.**

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

## FINANCE – Local Management of Schools (LMS)

The school budget is robustly monitored by the Principal and the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors.

At present, like most schools, the school is operating in a deficit position. EA and CCMS are monitoring school financial planning and spending the majority of which comes down to staffing and running costs - lights, heating & bathroom/cleaning requisites.

Regular Governor Finance 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.

# St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

## Report to Governors



## Covid-19 2020-21 & Informed Future Planning 2021-24 (New SDP)



### Going forward in the era of Covid-19 – Looking toward 2021-22 and beyond

A number of issues relating to Admissions, Enrolment and Accommodation in St Comgall's PS need to be further addressed in the incoming academic year 2021-2022. Not least of these remains the issue of class size and accommodation. The Governors have been working hard on finding lasting solutions to the persistent oversubscription to the school, lack of accommodation and the numbers of families not accessing catholic education as a result.

Throughout 2020-2021 the Governors directed the Principal to reconfigure classes and negate the need for large composite classes. With social distancing guidelines in mind, it was necessary to recruit additional temporary staff to allow for the creation of three extra classes (creating 14 in total) to allow pupil-teacher ratios to remain within safe levels. Talks were ongoing with DE/CCMS to explore the possibility of a tandem development proposal (with BPFS partners) to establish an increase in admissions and enrolment but stalled due to the pandemic.

Father Gunn is strongly committed to future-proofing and seeing **all Parish schools succeed**. In light of issues raised in relation to St Comgall's PS, Father very kindly stepped up and offered an accommodation solution in the Parish Centre, converting the upstairs of the Youth Centre to accommodate the P5 Year Group. The Principal was tasked to resource and furnish this provision and, in order to secure its use as an extension of the school site, to physically connect the two buildings by providing an external set of stairs linking from the KS2 playground to the front door of the Youth Centre.

Furthermore, the centre was kitted out with Interactive CleverTouch technology meaning that provision of resource in the centre is equal with that provided within the main school building and mobiles.

In 20-21 we successfully operated dual entry straight classes from P1-7 with all of year five housed within the Parish Centre. Total enrolment was 306 pupils (after a few moves) with class size ranges from 19-26, much more in line with our neighbouring counterparts and a huge improvement on our previous composite classes of 33-35.

This approach is vital long-term (not just for Covid) if we are to secure the longterm future of the school and compete for enrolment with neighbouring controlled sector schools who can comfortably afford smaller class sizes in more recent, state-of-the-art facilities. Only recently, Bangor Central IPS was announced for a brand new build school, ready for 2024, which is intended to accommodate 600 pupils.

The provision of the Parish Centre as additional accommodation, whilst deeply appreciated, is not without its challenges for the school staff and children (and the Parish Centre) but thankfully has worked very well to-date and offers hope for the future. We would like to put on record our deepest thanks to Father Gunn and the Parish Centre Committee for their kindness and ongoing support.

Education Restart Guidance continues to change weekly making running school a very challenging and fluid situation but thankfully, we have managed to navigate our way and are optimistic of a more 'normal-like' academic year in 2021-22.

Further update to our outdoor provision is required and the Principal through Shared Education opportunities and partnership with the PTA will try to access sources of funding to accommodate this.

A review of staff provision is also required to meet the changing circumstances and needs of the school.

### **Future Opportunities & Challenges**

Opportunities	Challenges
Over-subscribed Enrolment & Waiting List Covid-19 Engage Funding to support pupils New 3 Year SDP 2021-2024	COVID-19 - rising costs, staff & pupil health & wellbeing 290 Capped Enrolment – very limiting – oversubscribed school – denial of Temporary Variations / lack of progress CCMS/DE support for Development Proposal. Accommodation: Limited Space within School Building - use of Parish Centre. Making the most of our Budget in light of capped enrolment & rising staff/utility costs Lack of training & support from EA – <b>SEND</b> numbers rising SEND implementation & parent expectation and understanding of new 3stage process.
Established Digital Strategy and Seesaw for Schools platform Active Learning & Teaching Methodologies iPad Technology Flexible Reggio-inspired Learning Environments	Covid-19 - Remote Learning Need for continued investment in ICT CPD for staff to meet remote teaching needs. Lack of DE Funding/Training/Infrastructure/Guidance and/or Support for Staff Need for teacher training to meet needs of ALL pupils Cost of school ICT maintenance - lack of funding



Highly Supportive PTA Community & Partnership Support External Agencies	<b>*Three Year Finance Plan (taking account of Rising Costs) indicates continued deficit Sustainability Serious concern over Rising Costs Capped enrolment figures mean no access to additional funding PTA – a need for future-proofing &amp; planning given their vital contribution to school life/funds.</b>
Staffing/Class Restructuring Previous DE (Minister Weir) open to application for Joint Development Proposal in tandem with St Malachy's PS	New class sizes need to be made a permanent arrangement. Only large, 'outstanding' school in Bangor to operate composite classes. Temporary staff appointments drain resource and training budgets and create uncertainty. Need to create permanent posts. Deficit/Lack of Budget
ETI Report & Positive Feedback (May 2017) ETI Chief Inspector & CCEA Visit (June 19) – highly positive Reputation for excellence Showcase school for CCEA & Stranmillis UC School Awards & Achievements	Staff morale, workload, health & wellbeing in light of Covid. Managing parental expectation in remote learning scenarios. Sustaining & improving upon current provision & Academic Performance Improving upon Teaching & Learning Provision to sustain Outstanding - Sustaining Improvement ETI Visit anticipated
Vibrant school community & active parental involvement Partnerships with External Agencies & Transition Links  Positive Links through BPFS, Transition & Shared Education – Grange Park PS	Maintaining partnership, community and connectivity in light of Covid restrictions <b>Lack of funding. Need for continuous fundraising.</b> Sustainability of Shared Education – future funding sources – Brexit? Challenge of school promotion without visits to school site - Virtual Open Night, Social Media PR, Connecting with prospective families and maintaining existing partnerships remotely - Transition, Shared Ed, InterGenerational etc
School Development Plan - Strong Wellbeing Focus – look to the future, meet children where they're at! "Back to Basics"	Rising concern over staff and pupil physical, mental health and wellbeing Lack of funding (outside of PTA) for School Counsellor services – new DE pilot not forthcoming yet Need for financed training and support for schools Access to support for staff for own wellbeing needs

### **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
ETI	Education & Training Inspectorate
PRSD	Performance Review & Staff Development
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
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 2021



*St Comgall's PS, Bangor*  
*Quality Learning, Friendship For All*

