

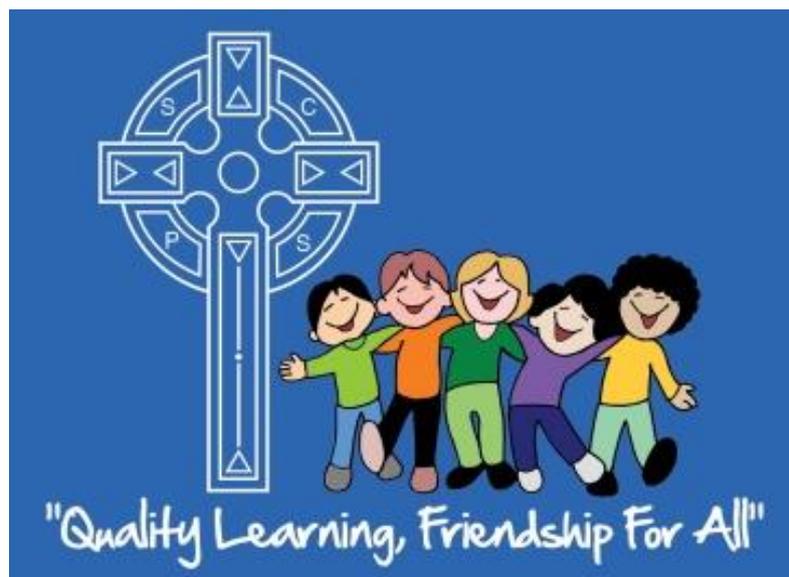


Quality Learning, Friendship for All

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

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

Quality Learning, Friendship for All



Board of Governors Annual Report Academic Year 2022-23

www.stcomgallsps.co.uk

Twitter: @StComgallsPS

Principal: Mr Matt McGinley



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[Chairperson's Address 2022-23](#)

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

The academic year 2022/23 has been a year of transition for St Comgall's Primary School, following the departure of Mrs. Hunter in June 2022. The appointment process for a new Principal took some considerable time. During this time and for a good part of the Academic year, Miss Bronagh Carey was the Acting Principal until the appointment of our new Principal Mr Matt McGinley on 20th February 2023.

Whilst the impact of Covid restrictions/regulations lessened, the legacy of lost time in the school building. For some of our students, the aftereffects on learning are still becoming apparent. However, I'd like to acknowledge the challenges and the exceptional efforts of the Principal, Staff and co-operation of the whole school community throughout the academic year.

On behalf of the Board of Governors I present the Annual Report for the Academic Year 2022/23.

This year's report acknowledges the incredible work of the staff and children and pays tribute to the achievements of the whole school community. We are very much a community, rooted in and connected to our Parish and the Governors seek to reassure all families of our ongoing commitment and service.

The Governors would like to welcome Mr. Matt McGinley into the role of Principal. We would like to thank him for his work to date and look forward to working alongside him to ensure the school continues to go from strength to strength.

Despite the year of transition in leadership, the new leadership team continued to ensure that the school was welcoming, clean, safe, appropriately staffed and delivering to its usual extremely high standards.

The Governors would like to express their gratitude to Miss Bronagh Carey for stepping into the role of Acting Principal. Miss Carey showed great commitment to the school in challenging circumstances. The Governors would also like to thank Mr. Sean Ennis, who was the Acting Vice-Principal, for his work and commitment to supporting Miss Carey in her role. The high standards we've all come to know and expect of St Comgall's were perhaps particularly well evidenced upon receipt of our third consecutive, prestigious *Catholic School of Distinction Award* (Jan 23). An incredible achievement by the whole school community and testament to the hard work and commitment of all the staff.

The Governors wish to express very sincere thanks to the entire staff team, acknowledging the unwavering level of commitment and service they continued to provide to St Comgall's families. We would also like to commend the excellent partnership from parents and families, as well as the very hard-working PTA, in working together with the school staff to deliver in the best interests of all the children.

At the end of the year we had a number of staffing changes, one of these saw Ms Fionnuala Taylor Wilson retiring, after many years' of dedicated service to the school. Her creativity and passion for art will be sorely missed by us all. The staff, children and community will miss Fionnuala greatly, but we wish her every blessing in her retirement.

The Governor's would like to congratulate Miss Rachel McGrattan on her appointment to a permanent post in St Joseph's P.S. Carryduff and Miss Niamh O'Connor who has been appointed to a permanent post in St Bride's Belfast. Also leaving the staff are classroom assistants, Carly Drummond, Ruth Graham, Elsa Kandamkery and Siobhan Kane.

We wish to thank all of the staff who are leaving for all their passion and commitment to the school and wish them all the very best with their future careers.

Lastly, after 36 years of dedicated service, Miss Anne Higgins retired on the 30th June. Anne's legacy will be long lasting. The touching comments from the staff, children and local community as we acknowledged and celebrated Anne's retirement, demonstrated the impact Anne has had on us all. Anne's calm, caring pastoral supportive approach within the school and her wonderful teaching will be sorely missed. We wish Anne every blessing as she begins her retirement and look forward to hearing how her golf handicap is spiralling to scratch!

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

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Section 1: 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.

Our staff work to ensure that St Comgall's is a safe, spiritual and nurturing environment, to provide every child with the education they need.

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.

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
- endeavoring to strengthen partnerships between school, home, parish and community.

Section 2: Curriculum

i) Introduction

The NI curriculum sets out the minimum requirements that should be taught at each key stage. Within these requirements, schools have a responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. In St Comgall's are dedicated teaching staff aim to give every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

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

The Key Stages of the Primary Curriculum are:

- The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

The curriculum for the 3 key stages is set out in 6 Areas of Learning:

- Language and Literacy (Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing)
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music)
- The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding of Geography, History and Science and Technology)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding -PDMU (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community)
- Physical Education (focussing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities).

In additional there are **Cross Curricular Skills**:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT

And Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative

ii) Special Education

Supporting children with a Special Educational Need (SEN) is a crucial aspect of daily school life. 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 Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), Miss Hannah McCaughey, has the responsibility for coordinating the school's special educational needs provision. Miss McCaughey works with the SLT, staff, children, families and a range of support services to support the children's needs.

The 3 stages of SEN provision are:

Stage	Definition	No. of pupils at the stage in June 2023	Percentage of Pupils at the stage in June 2023
1	School based intervention to support the child's needs.	41	13.48%
2	School seeks external support from EA to help the child progress.	6	1.97%
3	A statutory assessment has taken place and the EA have decided the child requires a Statement of Educational Needs.	16	5.26%

An IEP (Individual Education Plan) is used to support a child on the SEN register. In 2022-23, St Comgall's began training to move to PLP (Personal Learning Plan), however this was paused due to ongoing industrial action.

A dedicated Learning Support Room, led by Mrs. Marie Curley, was used to provide individual and small group withdrawal as a short-term intervention strategy. However, due to budgetary pressures, an additional teacher cannot be employed beyond June 2023.

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.

At the end of June 2023, approx. 20.72% of pupils are recognised as having an additional or special educational.

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).

iii) Pastoral, PDMU and Shared Education

Pastoral

Over the last couple of years our children have faced many challenges. Thankfully we've been able to continue supporting children through our counselling service (funded by our wonderful PTA). To-date 15 children have availed of the service from September 2022 – June 2023 presenting with a wide range of needs: anxiety, mental health, self-esteem, emotional regulation, body image, family issues, behaviour, anger issues and bereavement.

Our counsellor, Sharman Gilliland, has finished working with the school and we wish her all the best and thank her for all the support she has given to our pupils over the years. With funding from the PTA, we will look to maintain our counselling service next year.

Due to accommodation issues with the Assembly Hall being utilised for classroom teaching, regular assemblies did not take place. A plan has been put in place for regular assemblies to resume in the next academic year.

Healthy Happy Minds Funding

This year from September – April 2023 we have used Happy Healthy Minds Funding to assist with therapeutic/counselling services for our children.

As a result of this funding, St Comgall's pupils have availed of additional counselling services through FamilyWorks NI and Uhub.

Alongside this, we have had eighteen Art Therapy sessions delivered by *Uhub*, a Bangor-based counselling service, with a multi-disciplinary approach to emotional health and well-being. We set up three hubs of children from P3, P4 & P6. Within this hub the children were able to communicate thoughts and feelings freely through the use of art.

Alongside these we also funded whole class Musical Therapy interventions delivered by Resilient Rhythms within P1, P2, P4 & 5 year groups.

PDMU

In addition to these Primary 6 completed the Education Authority Reach Programme to improve health and well-being. This Programme was delivered over 6 weeks to support and address emotional resilience, anxiety, social needs and change.

We are also continuing to use ongoing school-led initiatives such as *Forest Schools*, *Shared Education*, *Intergenerational activity* and *Keeping Safe* to continue to safeguard, promote and protect the wellbeing of our school community.

Throughout the year we've had visits from the Community Police: Internet Safety (P7), School Parking (P7), Road Safety (P4) and Jobs as a Police Officer (P1)

In March Primary 7 classes attended an interactive 'Bee Safe' learning experience funded by Ards & North Down Borough Council. Topics covered included Internet safety, water safety, mental health & wellbeing and home safety.

Shared Education

iv) Religious Matters

The school links with the Church are core to our ethos. Our sacramental program saw all the children very well prepared and with the support of Father Gunn. The sacraments were celebrated with very blessed occasions.

- **Year 3 Sacrament of Penance**- Tuesday 28th February
- **Year 4 Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion**- Thursday 25th May
- **Year 7 Sacrament of Confirmation**- Thursday 30th March

After the sacraments, we were delighted to come together as a parish community in the Parochial Hall to have celebrate with the families. Thanks to the PTA for organising and volunteering to support this.

The school collected its Spirit of Catholic Education Award on 30th January 2023 at St Mary's University Belfast. Fr Colin Grant stated,

"St Comgall's Primary has been awarded with Distinction, the Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2022-23. This is in recognition of your school's outstanding commitment to Social Justice as outlined in the quality indicators detailed in the Down and Connor Catholic Ethos: A Framework for Self-Reflection."

The promotion of the Catholic Faith occurs in partnership between Home, School and Parish. Through daily prayer, regular attendance at mass, the sacraments, the teaching of Grow in Love across all year groups and our work with charities, we teach the Gospel values of love and respect. We are all inclusive and we welcome children of all faiths and none.

We continue to work closely with the other Bangor Parish Family of Schools (BPFs)- St Annes, St Malachy's and St Columbanus College.

I would like to thank Fr Gunn for his commitment to supporting the school and the children on their faith journey. I'd also like to thank Deacon James McAllister for his ongoing support.

Section 3: Performance

i) Annual Attendance

Pupil Attendance	Data Year					
	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Pupil Attendance P1-7 %	96.7	96.3	96.7	98.1	97.2	94.8%
NI Average Attendance %	94.9	*	*	*	*	

Attendance issues have not been raised in St Comgall's. We continually monitor attendance and support families if attendance is a concern. We work closely alongside our Education Welfare Officer to conduct annual audits.

Mr James Keag is the school's Education Welfare Officer.

ii) Assessment

Assessment is used in St Comgall's to identify areas of strength and areas for development at a class and individual level.

Standardised pupil data is used to aid pupil progress.

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 Funding was used to support pupils who had struggled in areas of Numeracy (Miss Carey & Mrs. Curley).

As per usual moderation practice, St Comgall's PS administered **NFER Standardised Tests in English (PTE)** and **Mathematics (PTM)** in late May 2022.

The staff development day on 31st May 2022, led by Miss Bronagh Carey (Assessment coordinator) centred on data analysis and target setting. A comprehensive assessment report has been compiled by Miss Carey to support school improvement in 2023-24.

iii) Reporting to Parents

Annual written Progress Reports were issued to parents/carers on Friday 23rd June.

Face to Face Parent/Teacher Meetings took place in October 2022 and again in April 2023. These meetings provided an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss their child's progress to date.

The school continues to use SeeSaw to support pupil learning and to celebrate the work of the children. Parents/carers are regularly updated on work being completed in class. Monthly digital newsletters have been sent home from February 2023 to keep parents/carers updated with events within the school.

The school social media sites of Twitter @StComgallsPS and Instagram @stcomgallspsb, continue to showcase and celebrate the fantastic work of the children.

iv) Extra-curricular achievement

- Members of the P6 choir took part in a cross-community choir marking the centenary of Stranmillis University. The children sang fantastically well and stole the show!
- The school choir won the Sacred Music Category and Best Overall Primary School in the Bangor International Choral Festival. A fantastic achievement!
- The choir and traditional group also performed at the Columbanus Traditional Music Youth Festival in the Parish Centre; they were a credit to the school.
- The Netball team qualified for the NI Finals and were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals. We're very proud of all of their efforts and thank Mrs Carol Boal and Miss Savage for all of the coaching and work with the team this year.
- A number of children qualified for the Inter School's North Down competition at Aurora and a number of gold, silver and bronze medals were brought home to the school, congratulations to all the athletes!
- Music has been promoted across the whole school this year. This has included peripatetic lessons (fiddle, whistle, bodhran, guitar), school music groups (choir, guitar group and traditional group) and visits from external music organisations (music bugs, Stranmillis shared-Ed choir and resilient rhythms). There have been several opportunities for performance and competing (Holywood festival, Peace Proms, Bangor choral festival, Columbanus folk festival, community events, intergenerational events and school-based performances and assemblies) and the highlight of the year was recording a school CD.

I'd like to thank Miss Colleen McCleery and Mrs Laura Curran for all their dedication in working with the choir this year and congratulate them on their success.

BASE (Before & After School Engagement)

The school has been running its breakfast club from 8am to support working families. This club has been well attended throughout the year and is staffed by classroom assistants and we thank them for all their efforts in providing activities, breakfast and support to the children in the morning.

Miss Deirbhile Savage (P.E and After-School Coordinator) has organised and promoted a range of after school activities for the children. Miss Savage has worked with ActivityNI, Jamie Mulgrew and St Comgall's staff to provide an after-school's program including, arts, crafts, football, GAA, running, science and computing. The program offered a range of new experiences for the children, and we thank Miss Savage for her dedication and the staff who organised and took the individual clubs.

Sleepy Hollow have provided additional childcare beyond the school day. They operate from 2pm until 6pm on school days, 11:45am until 6pm on ½ days and also opened during school closures, inclusive of the summer holidays.

Section 4: Links with the Community

i) Community Links

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.

ii) Charities

As a Catholic School, the support of the local and wider global community is very important. It reflects our ethos of support and love for one another. Throughout 2022-23, we supported a range of charities, and we thank our school community for all their support. In a climate of increasing financial pressures for all, the school and the community showed the spirit of care and compassion for others.

The following charities were supported across the year with a range of different events taking place to support the different needs of the charity:

- Trocaire- Lenten campaign included sponsored walk and crazy hair day
- Shoebox Appeal
- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Fairtrade UK
- Children in Need
- Intergenerational and Community Partners

Section 5: Management

i) Board of Governors

Member	Role
Very Reverend Canon Joseph Gunn	Trustee
Mr Brian Jamison	Chairperson and Trustee
Mr Pat McCartan	Vice Chair and DE Representative
Mrs Patricia McQuillan	Trustee
Mrs Cecilia Mc Mahon	EA Representative
Mr Tony Slack	EA Representative
Mr Ray Havlin	Parent Trustee
Miss Bronagh Carey	Teacher Representative (Acting principal and Secretary September 2022- February 2023)
Mr Anthony Mc Brearty	Parent Representative
Miss Anne Higgins	Vice Principal (co-opted) – Minute Secretary
Mr Matt McGinley	Principal and Secretary to Governors (March 2023 onwards)

I'd like to thank the BOGs for their support, time and ongoing commitment to St Comgall's throughout the academic year.

ii) Staff

Class	Teacher(s)	Supported by	Number of SEN CAs	Location
P1	Miss Colleen McCleery	Ms Carmel Flanagan	2	P1 Room
P1	Miss Deirbhile Savage	Mrs Kate McAuley	2	P1 Room
P2	Mrs Charlene Lavery & Mrs Catriona Monaghan	Ms Wendy Corr		P2 Room
P2	Miss Rachel McGrattan	Mrs Sinead McLoughlin	1	P2 Mobile
P3	Mrs Nuala Harte		2	P3 Room
P3	Miss Niamh Connor		1	P3 Room
P4	Miss Cliona Fowler		2	P4 Mobile
P4	Miss Hannah McCaughey & Mrs Sharon Parker		2	P4 Room
P5	Miss Hannah Oliver			Parish Centre
P5	Mrs Laura Curran			Assembly Hall
P6	Miss Bronagh Carey			Upstairs P6 Room
P6	Mr Ruiséal McKimm		1	P6 Mobile
P7	Mr Sean Ennis		1	P7 Room
P7	Miss Anne Higgins & Mrs Fionnuala Taylor Wilson		1	P7 Room
Number of Statements			15	

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St Comgall's PS Leadership Structure 2022-23

- **Acting Principal** – Miss Bronagh Carey (August 2023- 20th February 2023)
- **Principal**- Mr Matt McGinley (20th February 2023 onwards)

SLT

- **Vice Principal** - Miss A Higgins (Mon- Wed)
- **Vice Principal** - Miss B Carey (Thu-Fri)
- **Senior Teacher** - Mr S Ennis
- **Senior Teacher** - Mrs C Lavery

Middle Leadership Team (MLT) with Teaching Allowances

- **SENCo** – Miss H McCaughey
- **UIC**- Miss H Oliver
- **Sport/PE**- Miss D Savage

Focus Teams 2022-23

All staff support each other through Focus Teams & Co-ordination Leads. A link Governor provides additional support.

Led by Senior Teachers & Teacher Tutor/Mentors- Miss Bronagh Carey & Mr Sean Ennis

One teacher from each year group P1-7 will be supervised and supported by Senior Staff.

Co-ordination Leads 2022-2023

Subject Area	Staff Coordinator	Link Governor
Whole School Management and Curriculum	Aug-Feb Miss Bronagh Carey March onwards Mr Matt McGinley	Board of Governors of St Comgall's P.S.
Pastoral Care/ Safeguarding/ DT /PDMU / Behaviour/ Health and Safety / Parental Liaison	Miss Anne Higgins	Mr Brian Jamison Mr Tony Slack
Using Mathematics- Numeracy / Assessment	Miss Bronagh Carey	Mrs Cecilia McMahan
Communication- Literacy / DDT / Shared Education	Mr Sean Ennis	Mrs Pat McQuillan
Using ICT / E-Safety	Miss Hannah Oliver	Mr Brian Jamison
Special and Additional Educational Needs / Learning Support	Miss Hannah McCaughey	Mr Pat McCartan
World Around Us / Outdoor Learning / STEM / Roots of Empathy	Mrs Charlene Lavery	Mr Ray Havlin
Physical Development/ Education / Sports / Before and After School Engagement (BASE)	Miss Deirbhile Savage	Mr Anthony McBrearty

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PRSD Arrangements 2022-2023:

Due to ongoing Industrial Action, PRSD was completed by staff members in order to ensure professional development and to move through threshold.

The PRSD focus was:

1. Professional Practice

Contribute to the development and implementation of new 3 Year **School Development Plan** (2021-24) and in particular, areas highlighted as Year 2 Priorities.

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

Continue to **share & engage in good practice & Professional development activity** 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 awareness and incorporate opportunities associated to Pupil Wellbeing Focus.

2. Pupil and Curriculum Development

Back to Basics – Confident, Secure, Brilliant Beings!

Literacy Focus: Comprehension Strategies –

Promote and develop reading strategies and comprehension strategies within teaching and learning. (including the use of Literature Circles and Reciprocal Reading strategies as age appropriate)

Numeracy Focus -

Review the continuity and progression of **Time**.
Widen active teaching and learning strategies for **Time**

3. Personal and Professional Development

Maintain a strong commitment to CPD. Seek out relevant personal and professional development opportunities.

Remain an informed, reflective practitioner.

Early Career Teachers

A number of staff members continued through the ECT professional journey. Congratulations to Miss McCleery and Miss McGrattan who completed their EPD 2.

Staff also engaged with ETI through Empowering Improvement Project, others with EA & ITE through STEPS into Leadership.

I'd like to congratulate Mrs. Harte, Mrs. Curran and Miss McCaughey for the successful completion of their STEPS programme.



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Section 6: Finance

i) LMS Budget

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 at an increasing 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.

	Income	Expenditure
Balance carried forward from 2021/22	£-441,116	
Initial Formula Funding 2022/2023	£883,665.00	
Additional Funding	21,702.00	
Staff Costs 2022/2023		£1,006,017
Running Costs		£81,459
Donations	£3000	
	Total	£1,087,476
Deficit carry forward to 2023/2024	£-619,983	

ii) General Purpose Account

ST COMGALL'S SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

(With First Trust Bank and relates to all monies that pass through the School Office and SchoolMoney)

1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Opening Balance on 1 st September 2022: £22,116.96		
	Income	Expenditure
Lodgements	£88,2246.80	
Gross Interest Earned	Nil	
Cheques Presented and automated transactions		£68,317.49
Bank Fees		£300.13
Running Costs		
Closing Balance on 31 st August 2023	£41,746.14	

I can confirm that these transactions are recorded in the above-mentioned account in respect of the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.

Accounts reviewed by:
Maura Young

On behalf of the Board of Governors Finance Committee
November 2023

Section 7: Building and Maintenance

i) Development Proposal

None Submitted

ii) Minor works

None submitted.

iii) School accommodation

The building supervisor, Mr. Paul Busby, has continued to do an excellent job, under extreme budgetary conditions to maintain the school building. Mr. Busby and his cleaning team work hard to ensure health and safety policies are followed and the school is clean and tidy for the staff and pupils.

Mr. Busby conducts his termly Health and Safety Audit and a number of ongoing maintenance issues are outstanding. Despite the need for these to be repaired, the Education Authority have stated they have no money for many aspects of maintenance unless there is a danger to staff or pupils.

The Upper Playground Mobile remains in need of replacement. To-date, the EA have declined the application for Minor Works to have the Mobile replaced to meet regulation size, heating and access.

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.

One class was using the assembly hall throughout the academic year. To ensure that the hall is used for P.E., assemblies, parent functions the Principal's Office will be turned into a Year 6 classroom with a small class. The Principal will use the Counselling Room as his new office. This further reduces the space for outside agencies to operate within the school.

A new Fire Safety Policy was created with weekly, monthly and termly checklists included on the back of the failure of the fire alarm.

Over the summer period, the NIE substation, located at the pedestrian entrance was replaced with an additional separate line put in for the school/parish.

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.

Mr. McGinley would like to thank Mr. Busby and his team for all of his efforts in ensuring the school is safe, clean and welcoming to all.

Section 8: Enrolment and Transfer

i. Enrolment

New Pupils 2022-2023

Forty-two pupils enrolled in Primary One in September 2022.

We were again oversubscribed and will continue to push for increased enrolment to allow us to accept up to 50 pupils each year.

Open Enrolment

We were again allocated **41** places for admission to Primary 1 in September 2023. We accepted **45** P1 pupils.

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

Our projected enrolment for September 2023 (based on data June 2022) is **308** pupils.

ii. Transfer

Transfer to Post-Primary

Forty-two Primary Seven pupils transferred to Post-Primary Education in September 2023.

This was the final cohort of pupils to experience the GL and AQE entrance exams. For entry into Grammar schools for September the pupils will complete a new assessment run by SEAG (The School's Entrance Assessment Group).

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	
School	No of Pupils Transferring
OLSPCK	18
St Columbanus' College	19
Sullivan Upper	1
Bangor Grammar	1
Campbell College	1
Strathearn School	1
Glenlola Collegiate School	1

The Year 7 pupils were an immensely talented bunch in all aspects of their learning and we wish them every success in their future.

A summary of the enrolment profile is provided below.

Enrolment Profile	Data Year					
	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Enrolment P1-7	322	312	303	309	305	303
FSM %	9.9	9.9	*	8.5	12.2	8.9
FSM Pupils within P1-7	32	31	*	26	38	27
SEN % Stages 1-4	17.1	19.6	*	20.1	New Stages 1-2 22%	Stage 1 41 pupils 13.48%
SEN Pupils Stages 1-4	55	61	*	62		Stage 2 6 pupils 5.26%
SEN % Stage 5	2.8	3.2	*	2.6	New Stage 3 11 pupils 3.6%	Stage 3 16 pupils 5.26%
SEN Stage 5 Pupils	9	10	*	8		
Newcomer Pupils %	4.0	1.6	*	*	*	0.7
Newcomer Pupils P1-7	13	5	*	*	*	2
Looked After Children (LAC) %	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Looked After Children (LAC) Pupils P1-7	1	1	0	1	1	1

Principal's Message

I was honoured to take up the post as principal of the school at the end of February 2023. I'd like to thank the Governors for placing their trust in me and I look forward to a long career working for the pupils, parents/carers and staff of St Comgall's.

The report above highlights the excellent work of all of the staff and I'd like to pay tribute to Miss Bronagh Carey, the Acting Principal from August to the end of February. Miss Carey did a fantastic job in running the school and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the school.

I'd like to thank the PTA for all their help and support this year. In an era of real financial difficulties for schools, the support of the PTA has been crucial.

June 2023 saw two long standing members of the staff retire, Miss Anne Higgins and Mrs Fionnuala Taylor Wilson. Miss Higgins was our Vice Principal and Designated Teacher who had a massive impact on the staff, children she taught and families she worked with. We will miss Mrs Taylor Wilson's artistic flair and way with the kids. After two very long and distinguished careers, we wish them all the best in retirement.

Whilst I cannot possibly name everyone, the staff have done a tremendous job in a year of transition. I thank all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their effort, commitment and dedication to the school.

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Mrs Amanda Jones, our secretary, deserves a special mention and thanks for all the work. The school cannot operate without her.

Finally, to the parents/carers and children. You have given me a very warm welcome and I look forward to your support for many years to come.

Matt McGinley (Principal)



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