

FAIRVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT 2025/26

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased on behalf of the Board of Governors to present our annual report for 2025/26. We continue to benefit from a Governing Body with a wide range of skills and experience, who support our school community.

This year has been another busy and challenging year for staff as the school continued to provide the best possible education for all its pupils in a happy, safe, and secure environment under ever increasing financial constraints. We are very fortunate in having committed and enthusiastic staff who, as always, set high professional standards. I would like to pass on my thanks to the staff and parents who, through a strong partnership, ensure the highest standards are achieved for all our pupils.

Mr McAllister was appointed to the post of Principal in June 2023 and has now led our school for the past three years. We thank him for his continued energy and commitment and I have every confidence that he will continue to lead a thriving school. Mrs Norris is now established as our permanent Vice Principal, continuing in her role as Pastoral Lead. At the end of the 2024/2025 academic year, Mrs Beattie stepped down as Head of Junior School and, following an interview process, was replaced by Mrs McQueen in the role. Mrs McQueen has now completed her first year as a member of the Senior Leadership Team in school.

The Board of Governors wish to encourage parents to share their views about the school, and about issues affecting the school in a constructive manner. If you have any comments which you would like us to consider, or if you would like more information on any aspect of this report, please write to:

Mr. N. McAllister as Secretary to the Board of Governors,
by Friday, 25th September 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Lewis
Chairperson

FAIRVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REPORT 2025/26

INTRODUCTION

This report is produced by the Board of Governors of Fairview Primary School and is an account of the work that was undertaken in carrying out the responsibilities for the management of the school. During the year of this report, the Board of Governors was made up of 12 representatives, 9 of whom are voting members. The Principal was a non-voting member, as were the two coopted members. The school Board of Governors was reconstituted in January 2025 and 5 full meetings were held throughout the 2025/26 year.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr S. Lewis

SECRETARY

Mr N. McAllister

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs K. Jess

Mrs P. Garrett

Ms K. Carter

Mr K. McAdam (Vice Chairperson)

EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs V. McWilliam

Mr S. Lewis

PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES

Mr S. Norris

Mrs B. Shortall

Co Opted Representatives

Mrs F. McMillan

Mrs V. Woodside

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Miss EJ. Earls

PRINCIPAL

Mr N. McAllister

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2025/26

The Board of Governors is required to meet at least once per term for a formal meeting of the full Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors is responsible for:

- Appointment of Staff
- Discipline
- Grievance and Suspension/Dismissal Procedures
- The Curriculum
- Admissions
- Finance
- Management of Staff
- Annual Governors' Report
- Maintenance of the Premises
- School Inspections

Overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school continues to rest with the Principal and he is responsible for advising the Board of Governors of any problems which may arise.

ENROLMENT

The enrolment for the last day of June 2026 was 538. We are delighted to note that the enrolment trend continues to increase due to significant new housing in the area, extensive publicity work on the part of the school through social media and community events, and the general good reputation of Fairview Primary School throughout the town and beyond. Fairview Primary School is in the Group 3B school category.

72 children transferred to post-primary school in June 2026:

Ballyclare High School – 35 pupils
Ballyclare Secondary School – 28 pupils
Other – 9 pupils

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE 2025/26

The total attendance by all pupils on roll as % of the total possible days of attendance was 94.7%. This is a slight decrease of 0.5% on the previous year. Our attendance figure remains above the NI average, 1.1% above the NI average for the comparative year. We were delighted to have 45 pupils with full attendance over the last academic year. The school continues to promote the importance of attendance to parents and pupils throughout the year.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fairview Attendance</u>	<u>NI Average</u>
22/23	94.4%	92.5%
23/24	94.9%	93.0%
24/25	95.2%	93.5%
25/26	94.7%	93.6%

CURRICULUM

The curriculum at our school is delivered in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, which establishes the Northern Ireland Curriculum and sets out the Areas of Learning and experiences that all grant-aided schools must provide. In addition, schools are required to promote the cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT, while ensuring that Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Core Syllabus prescribed by the Department of Education.

Throughout the year, the school has continued to provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum that supports the academic, personal, social and emotional development of all pupils. The Department of Education's TransformED NI strategy proposes significant curriculum reform, including a review and redesign of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to create a more ambitious, knowledge-rich and clearly sequenced framework for learning. This is open for consultation as I write this, closing on 30th September 2026.

The strategy also signals enhanced support for schools through improved curriculum resources, evidence-informed literacy and numeracy approaches, strengthened assessment arrangements and increased professional learning opportunities for teachers. The Board of Governors will continue to monitor these developments closely and support the school in implementing future curriculum changes to ensure pupils receive the highest quality educational experience

The subjects taught are:

Language & Literacy

Talking and Listening
Reading
Writing

Mathematics & Numeracy

Processes in Mathematics
Number
Measures
Shape and Space
Handling Data

The World Around Us

Science
Geography
History

The Arts

Art, Design & Technology
Music

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Strand 1: Personal Understanding and Health
Strand 2: Mutual Understanding in the Local and
Wider Community

ICT, Physical Education, Religious Education

We offered a full programme of school trips this year for our pupils. All classes were offered at least one educational visit during the 2025/26 year, as well as a pantomime trip in December. The trips were as follows:

- P1 Streamvale Farm
- P2 The Balmoral Show
- P3 The Ulster Museum, Belfast
 Ballyclare Walking Tour
- P4 Tayto Factory, Tandragee
- P5 Breckenhill
- P6 Residential Visit to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle – 3 days
 War Memorial Museum
 Bangor Heritage Centre
- P7 Residential Visit to York – 4 days
 Sentry Hill History House
 Titanic Belfast

ASSESSMENT

The school continued with its usual timetable of assessments across the year with tests being completed in September, January and early May for pupils in P3–7. Historically, we would report to both P4 & P7 parents their child's end of year CCEA levels for both English and Maths. As of June 2026, pupils are no longer levelled in line with assessment changes being implemented by DE. Standardised tests continue to be administered, including the new CCEA Computerised Adaptive Testing. Standardised scores were shared with parents on their end of year report, along with an information leaflet to explain these scores. Scores are also discussed in more detail at parent interviews. Fairview Primary School staff continue to track pupils across stanines based on standardised scores.

As part of TransformED, new statutory assessment arrangements for Northern Ireland are being introduced over a three-year period. Interim arrangements are in place and Fairview Primary School was chosen to complete these System Level Checks in literacy and numeracy in 2024/2025.

A detailed overview of school data is shared with Governors annually by Mr McAllister.

All parents received a Pupil Profile at the end of June, indicating how their child had performed during 2025/26 and further areas for development.

Key Stage 1 Assessment Results

<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	Percentage of pupils at stanine 4 or above in Fairview Primary School	Percentage of pupils at level 2+ in Northern Ireland
	72.1%	86.42%

<u>USING MATHEMATICS</u>	Percentage of pupils at stanine 4 or above in Fairview Primary School	Percentage of pupils at level 2+ in Northern Ireland
	85.3%	88.16%

Key Stage 2 Assessment Results

<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	Percentage of pupils at stanine 4 or above in Fairview Primary School	Percentage of pupils at level 4+ in Northern Ireland
	83.3%	78.73%

<u>USING MATHEMATICS</u>	Percentage of pupils at stanine 4 or above in Fairview Primary School	Percentage of pupils at level 4+ in Northern Ireland
	81.9%	79.97%

RESOURCES

The school continues to address the area of resourcing through self-evaluation and the School Development Plan. Due to the ongoing financial situation facing all schools, very few purchases were made this year.

Governors agreed to investment from school fund in the refurbishment of three classrooms, to include flooring, paint and storage. This work has now been completed. A savings fund has been set up within our School Current Account to fund a Multi-Use Games Area which is proposed to be installed at school cost alongside our DE School Enhancement Plan (SEP) for a 10 classroom extension. This SEP has now been fully funded by DE and work will commence in early 2027.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Fairview Primary School follows the statutory guidelines outlined in the document entitled the 'Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs'. This document outlines a three stage approach to meeting the needs of individual pupils depending on the degree of their difficulty. There is a Special Needs Policy in place which outlines how the Code of Practice is implemented within Fairview Primary.

Mrs Knowles continued to take pupils on an individual basis across her 2 days a week. Miss Earls continued in her post as Learning Support Co-ordinator (formerly SENCo). Additional SEND implementation funding continued to enhance our SEN teaching programme and enabled us to train a further Teaching Assistant as a Speech, Interaction and Language Support Assistant (SILSA). The school runs a range of Booster Groups for P2-P7, targeting underachievers and those pupils in need of additional support beyond class teaching.

Teaching Assistant provision or teaching provision for individual pupils with a statement of special educational needs continues to be in place. Liaison with outside agencies was ongoing for individual pupils (e.g. speech therapy, behavioural support, medical). Input from RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education) continued this year as usual and pupils were seen in school by the Educational Psychologist (Dr Travers).

Miss Earls continued to meet with, support and advise staff on the formulation of Individual Education Plans. Targets were set and reviewed for each pupil. Full parental involvement and consultation took place in both October and February via telephone calls or in person.

DISABILITY FACILITIES

Fairview Primary School is well-equipped to meet the needs of pupils with a disability. There are ramps into the main building and some of the mobile classrooms to facilitate pupils requiring the use of a wheelchair. The doors at both the front and back of the main building are electronically operated. There is also a disabled toilet facility and changing area based in the corridor of the main building.

HOME–SCHOOL LIAISON

The Home–School Liaison Programme in the school continues to operate successfully. Parents were given the option of either having a meeting over the phone or in person, for each of the Parent Teacher Interviews. Staff continued to phone or invited parents into school if an issue or concern needed discussed.

Seesaw continued to be the main method of communication, meaning parents could easily contact staff and vice versa. Information and notes from school are now emailed out to parents. A fortnightly newsletter keeps parents up to date with what has happened in school and dates going forward.

EXTRA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We continued to offer an extensive range of after school activities throughout the year. Staff led activities ran for 15 weeks across the school year, with external clubs running all year round and available every afternoon. All were well-attended and popular. Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am each morning prior to school starting. After School Provision runs from 3-5pm each afternoon (2-4pm on a Friday).

Some of the staff led activities were:

Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Football, Dance,
Eco Club, Cookery, SU, Art, Fun Fitness, Orchestra

There was also a wide-range of activities led by external providers. These included:

Playsport, Max Coding, Jump Jingle & Jive, Tempo Coaching, Cricket, Rugbugz
and Nature Rangers

STAFFING

During the school year 2025/26 the staffing of the school was determined as follows:

Principal plus 22 full time equivalent teachers.

As conditions of service are now determined all staff are aware of their responsibilities as well as their statutory requirement to be available for work for 1265 hours per year during 195 days.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding is promoted within each class and existing links with the community continued to be strong. The school has an established partnership with Ballyclare High School, incorporating languages, science and ICT. Local day care settings made regular visits this year into our school grounds. The school was an active contributor to community events, such as the May Fair Parade, Christmas Light Switch On and It's a Knockout.

BUILDINGS

The main school building is sound. Mr Lewis (Chair of Board of Governors), along with the Principal, keeps members informed of the maintenance required. He surveys the building regularly along with Mr McAdam (Vice Chair of Board of Governors) and Mr McAllister (Principal). At present the school has 12 classrooms in the main building and 9 mobile classrooms. The Board of Governors completed their annual site visit in the early part of the school year.

The School Enhancement Programme has made considerable progress with the Education Minister visiting school in the past year to announce funding. A contractor will be appointed and on site within the next academic year (26/27). Mr Lewis, Mr McAdam and Mr McAllister continued to attend meetings which were held via MS Teams and in person on site.

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Board of Governors and the teaching staff of Fairview Primary School believe that pupils attending the school should be offered the widest possible education. They recognise that a wide range of additional activities including after-school activities, educational visits and other experiences can make a valuable contribution to the pupils' development.

- (a) A charge will be made for visits inside and outside school hours which are not essential but relevant to the school curriculum. The charge to each child will not be greater than the cost incurred for that child, including a cost to school for online payment facility.
- (b) A charge will be made to cover the full cost of providing residential trips, including transport, activities, board and lodging. This charge will not be greater than the actual cost.
- (c) The Order states that a charge may be made for individual instrumental tuition. Fairview Board of Governors will charge an annual fee. Due to financial constraints, the Governors no longer subsidise lessons such as music tuition or swimming. Music Examinations will also be charged.
- (d) A charge may be made for the ingredients or materials used in practical subjects if the parents wish to own the finished products.
- (e) Parents will be asked to pay for wilful damage by their children to school books. Parents may be asked to pay for loss of school books and equipment.
- (f) In certain cases the school will allow a third party to charge parents for activities for which Governors or the Education Authority cannot charge.
- (g) The Board of Governors will consider applications for the use of the school building by the community within the current Education Authority policy. The Board of Governors will decide whether or not to agree to the request and what charge, if any, should be made to the applicant.

Depending on the circumstances the Board of Governors will not make a charge for any activity it judges to be an extension and which are in support of the work of the school. There will be no charge for:

- meetings of parents arranged by the Principal to discuss educational matters
- meetings of the Parent Teacher Association or its committee
- any other event for which the Governors decide there should not be a charge.

REMISSIONS POLICY

- (a) Where the parents of a pupil receive Universal Credit, the Board of Governors may not charge for board and lodging on residential (overnight) trips that are mainly within school hours or that are part of Northern Ireland Curriculum activities.
- (b) In cases of family hardship, the Board of Governors may invite the family to apply in confidence for a remission of all or part of the charge where activities are chargeable.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- (a) During the school year a number of educational visits will be planned which will make a valuable contribution to the pupils' understanding of the curriculum. School will be unable to finance such an activity unless the parents are willing to make a voluntary contribution towards all or part of the cost. In a trip organised on this basis, it is hoped that no child will be left behind because of his/her parents' unwillingness or inability to pay. (Refer to Remissions Policy.)
- (b) From time to time the school will undertake general fundraising activities for the benefit of the school and the education of its pupils.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Education Reform (N.I.) Order introduced the Local Management of Schools' Scheme (L.M.S.) which gives financial control to the Board of Governors. During the financial year ending 31 March 2026, this school had fully delegated status, i.e., it had the responsibility for staffing and other costs. The total for our Formula Budget Share is determined by a variety of criteria. The main factor is what is referred to as the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU). This means the school receives a specified amount per pupil enrolled at the school. The Budget allocation from the Department of Education for the academic year 2025/26 was £1,948,740 which was delegated by the Board of Governors to various aspects of teaching and learning in Fairview Primary School.

SUMMARY OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT CARRIED OUT ON BAKER DAYS AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (SDD)

BAKER DAYS

- 18/08/25 ETI Empowering Improvement – Self Evaluation
- 19/08/25 Defibrillator & First Aid training, Anaphylaxis, Child Protection, Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Critical Incidents, Risk Assessment training, EA Statutory Training
- 20/08/25 SDP Focus – ICT – sharing best practice, effective use of AI, Google Gemini, Adobe Express
- 21/08/25 Key Stage meetings and year group planning
- 22/08/25 Class-based Day, Staff Team Building Afternoon

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (SDD)

- 26/09/25 EAPPA Conference – Brain Box NI
- 05/01/26 SDP Priorities
am - ICT Safer Schools
pm – Literacy review of schemes
- 09/02/26 Twilights done in lieu of – SDP priority – Numeracy focus problem solving
- 28/05/26 Twilights done in lieu of – SDP priorities – SDP Staff Questionnaires
- 29/05/26 Self-evaluation; use of data and target setting