



**Board of Governors'
Annual Report
School Year 2017-18**

Jordanstown School

Jordanstown School is a specialist school for pupils with an auditory or visual impairment. We provide the full Northern Ireland curriculum to all of our pupils and we offer a wide range of both academic and vocational examinations.

The Education (School Information and Prospectus) Regulations (NI) 2003 requires Boards of Governors to provide access for parents and others to information about the educational provision and opportunities offered by individual schools. This report gives an overview of the work of the school during the 2017/18 academic year in line with these regulations. It reflects the commitment and professionalism of all members of staff and the invaluable contributions of many individuals and agencies.

Membership of Governors

Governor	Role	Nominating authority
Mrs Deirdre Byrne	Chairperson (Until January 2018)	Board of Trustees
Mrs Wendy Newbronner	Chairperson (From January 2018)	Elected by parents
Dr Patrick Johnson	Vice Chairperson	Board of Trustees
Mrs Joanne Dickson		Parent, co-opted by Board of Trustees
The Very Reverend Father Patrick Devlin		Board of Trustees
Mr Trevor Michael (retired January 2018)		Board of Trustees
Mr Gareth Adams		Teacher
Mrs Pat Wilson		Education Authority
Mrs Barbara Gilliland		Education Authority
Mrs Carole Magowan (from March 2018)		Board of Trustees
Reverend Glenn Jordan (from February 2018)		Board of Trustees
Mr Adam Smith	Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors	Non-voting member

We would like to thank Mrs Pat Wilson, Mrs Barbara Gilliland and Mr Trevor Michael for their hard work and support of Jordanstown School throughout their time on the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors takes a central role in decision-making on strategic matters relating to the future direction of the school. These include the curriculum, finance, welfare and academic achievement of the pupils, teaching and learning, the staff, various policies and resources including the building and site.

During the school year 2017/18 the Governors ensured that the school was operating smoothly and providing a sound education service for all of the pupils and their parents/carers. The full board met on 10 occasions. There were also sub-committee meetings to deal with teaching and non-teaching appointments. In between meetings the Governors were regularly consulted by email or telephone calls.

Staff information

Full time Teachers	12
Part time Teachers	3 (2 of whom are funded by the Board of Trustees)
Outreach Teachers	2
Classroom Assistants	12
General Assistants	1 (15 hours a week)
Discretionary support	155 hours
Sign Language Assistant	1 (funded by the Board of Trustees)
Bursar	1
Clerical officer	1
ICT technician	1
Lunchtime supervisory assistants	2
Building Supervisor	1
Cleaners	7
Development officer	1 (funded by the Board of Trustees)

Following 34 years teaching in Jordanstown School Mrs Gail Lawther retired in August 2018. We thank her for her hard work and support and wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement. Mr Adam Smith resigned in August 2018. We wish him all the best for the future.

The following appointments were made to the staff of Jordanstown School in 2017/18

- Mrs Debbie Atchenson – Permanent Classroom Assistant
- Mrs Jill McClelland – Permanent Teacher
- Mrs Gillian Stewart – Sensory Learning Support Coordinator
- Mr Ian Kincaid – Cleaner

Continuing Professional Development

Classroom assistants and teachers, completed a variety of professional development courses. These included 'Move' training, Primary Movement training, Team Teach tutor training and British Sign Language qualifications. During the staff development days throughout the year staff were consulted on a range of policies, discussed new initiatives within school and completed training linked to the School Development Plan.

Pupil information

Jordanstown School had an enrolment of 81 pupils at the end of 2017/18. In June 2018 seven pupils left Jordanstown School at the end of their education. One of these pupils is attending the South-Eastern College in Downpatrick, one pupil is undertaking a Level 2 Diploma on 'Children's Care Learning and Development' at Belfast Metropolitan College, two are studying courses at Northern Regional College, one is working towards A- Levels at a local Grammar School, one is attending the

Hub in Ballyclare and one is following a Day Opportunities with work placement linked to Northern Regional College.

The overall rate of attendance across the school was 89.1%. An attendance policy was ratified by the Board of Governors. The principal liaised and meet with the Educational Welfare Support (EWS) on a regular basis throughout the year.

Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum is to inspire and challenge our pupils, value them as individuals and help them prepare for the future. A broad and balanced curriculum, within a caring and secure environment in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum (www.nicurriculum.org.uk) is delivered in all classes. The curriculum provision is differentiated to meet the special needs of the pupils. Whole class and group teaching methods are used as well as the provision of individual support when necessary.

Curriculum provision at Key Stage 4 and 5 is enhanced through our continued involvement with Newtownabbey Learning Community (NLC) although this year none of our pupils chose to study subjects in other schools.

Religious Education continues to be a compulsory subject under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. One pupil is withdrawn from RE classes at the request of parents. Individual pupils were prepared for the sacraments of First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Guide Dogs NI continue to provide individual sessions of orientation and mobility education to pupils. These skills are then enforced by all school staff and parents.

In addition to the Northern Ireland Curriculum the staff of Jordanstown School deliver the Expanded Core Curriculum for pupils who are deaf and the Expanded Core Curriculum for pupils with a visual impairment. This upskills our pupils while developing their independence and empowering them for the future.

In Jordanstown School we offer a wide range of vocational and academic qualifications. Pupils are entered for the appropriate external examinations. Our pupils follow an individual examination pathway and we celebrate their success at our annual Prize Day.

A number of pupils undertook and enjoyed a period of work experience. We would like to thank the employers and organisations who provided these worthwhile learning experiences for our pupils.

We recognise and celebrate the achievements and success of our pupils at special assemblies and during prize day. Our pupils continue to enter and excel in a wide range of competitions.

Pupils in the secondary department were entered for and experienced success in a varied range of external examinations and assessments. In August 2018, the external examinations results were published, 67% of pupils entered achieved A-C grade at GCSE.

In line with statutory requirements teachers formally assessed the cross-curricular skills of Communication and Using Mathematics, reporting outcomes in their annual reports.

Curriculum enhancement activities

The pupils continue to be given opportunities to participate in many activities to develop their academic, personal and social development. This includes regular visits for different classes to:

- Supermarkets to develop their independence skills
- Donkey Sanctuary at Templepatrick
- Horse Riding

The Pupil council meets regularly and continues to give pupils a voice. It also develops their confidence and skills. This year the pupil council was led by Mrs McNeill.

Extended schools

The extended schools programme co-ordinated by Mr Smith provided a range of activities for our pupils this year. Pupils were able to take part in After School clubs, a film club at lunchtime and a range of Healthy Lifestyles activities.

Community links

Jordanstown School is a full and active member of the Newtownabbey Learning Community. This year we offered a qualification in Creative Crafts to the NLC. We were delighted to welcome pupils from another school to join with our pupils to successfully complete the course.

All school staff and parents continue to work together in the best interests of the pupils. In order to maintain these vital links, we held a parent workshop, an annual parent/teacher consultation meeting and annual review meetings. Parents are invited to a number of school events throughout the year.

Jordanstown Together, our parent staff association, continues to organise fundraising events. The Summer School Fun day, in June 2018, was very successful raising a total of £837. The money raised has enabled us to construct shelves in the bike shed and purchase additional play equipment for use by the primary pupils.

The school continue to be involved in a successful Erasmus project enabling our staff to share their expertise with other European Schools and learn from best practice across Europe.

Safeguarding pupils

We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the children in our charge and we carry out the responsibility through the Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment to enable each child to reach their full potential.

Child protection procedures continue to be fully implemented and appropriate background checks through AccessNI are carried out on all members of staff and volunteers. Procedures have been set up to further protect our children by ensuring that everyone who works in the school are aware of the reporting and recording procedures in place.

Mrs McNeill was the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Sarah Adams and Miss Ruth Sturgeon were the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Dr Patrick Johnston was nominated as the designated governor for safeguarding pupils and Mr Adam Smith completed the safeguarding team as the school Principal.

A comprehensive review of the pastoral policies and procedures took place in 2017/18 and further policies will be reviewed in 2018/19.

The school has a confidential recording system for information about suspicion of abuse, disclosure of abuse and complaints against members of staff.

Premises

The Principal and Governors oversee the upkeep of the school buildings, with maintenance works carried out under the auspices of the Education Authority's Property Services.

The health and safety of all pupils and members of staff is paramount and procedures are continually reviewed. The school closely follows the guidelines of the Health and Safety Policies of the Education Authority. All portable electrical appliances are regularly checked to ensure they comply with regulations and are safe to use. Maintenance is kept up-to-date and safety continuously monitored; fire drill procedures are regularly reviewed and there are written procedures in place with allocated assembly points clearly signed.

The school premises were used by a variety of organisations associated with the visually impaired and deaf, including RNIB, Angel Eyes, NDCS and the BDA. The hydrotherapy pool was used by community physiotherapists from the Northern Health Trust.

Security of pupils and staff

- The exterior of the school is monitored by an extensive range of CCTV cameras.
- Access through all exterior doors is controlled by means of an electronic security mechanism.
- All visitors are asked to report to the school reception where their visit is recorded by the Vis-Ed computer system, they receive a visitor's badge which they are required to wear for the duration of their visit.
- Classroom based staff are on supervision duty in the dining room, corridors and playground during the morning break, lunchtime and end of the school day.
- The building supervisor is on duty around the school during the day and will escort contractors as necessary.

- The school premises are made secure by the building supervisor/ principal/ responsible person in the evening and/or weekends.

Finance

Jordanstown School operates a partially delegated budget which is delegated by the Education Authority using the formula applied to all other special schools. The Board of Governors are furnished with a detailed transaction report as available from the Education Authority.

Throughout the year the school is fortunate to be in receipt of a small number of donations from organisations and individuals. Donations such as these enable us to enhance the provision available for the pupils through the purchase of additional educational resources and extra-curricular activities.

The Board of Governors wishes to thank all the members of the school community who have contributed to the school over the past year:

- The teachers for their dedication and hard work and for the personal interest they take in each pupil.
- The auxiliary and ancillary staff who contribute so much to the smooth running and friendly atmosphere in the school.
- The members of Jordanstown Together for their interest, support and hard work.
- The parents for their cooperation and support on which the school can always depend.
- The pupils for their enthusiasm and willingness to cooperate with all of the school staff.

We would also like to thank The Ulster Society for the Education of the Deaf and Blind for their continued support. They facilitated the purchase of Braille Notetakers and FM systems for use in school. Their support enabled us to purchase a defibrillator, which is available in the Foyer. In addition, they funded two part-time teachers who provide intensive literacy and numeracy support for pupils. We would like to express our thanks for the continued support from the Ulster Society.