

Clounagh Junior High School



Annual Report of the Board of Governors

**School Year
2023-24**

1. Board of Governors

Name	Representing	Term of Office
Dr D Blevins (Chair)	Board	2018-2024*
Mr A Hatch	Board	2018-2024*
Mr G Speers	Board	2018-2024*
Mr J Todd	Board	2018-2024*
Mr M Allen	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs P Hutchinson	Transferors	2021-2024*
Mrs H Malcolmson	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs J Whittle	Transferors	2018-2024*
Mrs H Burke (Vice-Chair)	Parents	2018-2024*
Mr M Clayton	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs L Cosgrove	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs M Giffin	Parents	2018-2024*
Mrs K Beggs	Teachers	2018-2024*
Mrs J Bled	Teachers	2018-2024*
Mr P H Elliott	Principal / Secretary	1 September 2023 onwards

*DE Circular 2023/06 (issued 28 April 2023) stated that “the most recent reconstitution period for Boards of Governors of controlled and maintained schools was expected to have run to 2023. This was previously rescheduled from 2022 as a consequence of the pressures and disruption placed on schools and managing authorities by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Department is aware of the administrative impact that a reconstitution will have on schools, and, in light of the current industrial action, the next reconstitution for controlled and maintained schools has been rescheduled to launch in December 2023 with a reconstitution date of June 2024. The current reconstitution period will therefore be 2018 to 2024.”

2. Financial Statement

Budget		Expenditure	
Allocation 1 April 2023	£3,226,700	Salaries – Teaching	£2,522,704
Carry Over from 2022-23	£618,210	Salaries – Non-Teaching	£354,016
Other Funding	£203,816	Staff – Other Costs	£1,757
		Premises, Fixed Plant and Grounds	£122,530
		Operating Costs	£158,443
		Capital Purchases (Equipment)	£3,962
		Non-Capital Purchases	£33,916
		Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance	£113,874
		Income	-£9,651
		Grants	£340
		Surplus/Deficit Carried Forward	£746,835
Total	£4,048,726	Total	£4,048,726

3. Links with the Community

The school operates an 'Open Door' policy, and parents are welcome to school at any time. In addition, the school communicates with parents through Parentmail, letters, leaflets, pupil diary, phone calls, information evenings, online parent-teacher consultations, and the Year 8 Induction Evening. As part of the Learning for Life and Work Programme, representatives from the business community organise training days for pupils. The school works closely with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland, Learn to Earn, Project Business and the Reach Mentoring Team.

The school has very close links with all schools in the area and actively promotes cross-phase liaison meetings. The school benefits from membership of the Craigavon Area Learning Community, the Dickson Plan Group, and the Junior High School Principals' Group. Local employers facilitate work experience for pupils from the Learning Support Centre at Key Stage 4. Clounagh hosted the Education Authority Music Service's "New Start" Concert in October 2023, and the school's Carol Service took place in St Mark's Church, Portadown, in December 2023.

The school engages with community agencies and bodies such as YMCA, MENCAP, Love for Life, Local Clergy, PSNI, NIFRS, Aspire, Freedom Acts, Beam Creative Workshops, Nutrition Services, NI Mood Matters, Sentinus, Start 360, Royal British Legion, Teenage Cancer Trust and the Portadown Wellness Centre.

4. Security of the Pupils, Staff and Premises.

At all times the security of pupils and staff is paramount, and a number of measures are taken to ensure this. These include the installation of a secure Automated Front Door Security System by Access Systems Ireland, a modern fire alarm system, closed-circuit television (which was enhanced and upgraded during July/August 2024), supervision of pupils and a visitor's sign-in protocol. All staff and visitors wear lanyards displaying identification cards. Procedures are in place for the emergency evacuation of the building. The caretaker secures the building each evening and activates the monitored intruder alarm system. Liaison with the PSNI through the Craigavon Area Learning Community enables support to be received on relevant security matters.

A Safeguarding Team is in place at Clounagh Junior High School. The Designated Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Dr James Todd. The Designated Teacher for Safeguarding is Mrs Heather McDowell (Vice-Principal, Pastoral) and the Deputy Designated Teachers for Safeguarding are Mrs Kathryn Patterson (Vice-Principal, Curriculum) and Mrs Jennifer Bled (Head of Learning Support Centre). Mrs McDowell led Safeguarding training for all members of staff (teaching and non-teaching) and on arrival in school throughout the year for all new members of staff. All parents received a Safeguarding Information Leaflet which included procedures for reporting. Assemblies were held to inform all pupils about Safeguarding and the procedures for reporting and support, both inside and outside School. Safeguarding messages were also promoted actively through a Learning for Life and Work curricular programme and external agencies. Staff Photographs are on display throughout the school to enable pupils to access staff support, and Form Room Noticeboards inform pupils of support organisations outside school.

5. Arrangements for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabled Pupils.

Mainstream

In the mainstream at Clounagh, pupils who have learning difficulties are placed in a class which has a small number of pupils. The pupils may remain in this class throughout their 3 years (the curriculum is suitably differentiated to meet individual needs) or they may move into another band depending upon their progress. Baseline Assessment tests in Literacy, Numeracy eg. Reading, Spelling and Mental Arithmetic given to all Year 8 pupils during their first month, advise staff of those pupils who have difficulties in particular areas and facilitate planning for differentiated teaching and remediation. The school uses a range of standardised tests, the most recent being the GL CAT-4 diagnostic test with results analysed for the benefit of the pupil, parent and teacher. Remediation programmes include the Better Reading Partnership Programme and withdrawal groups for literacy and numeracy. A further series of Standardised Tests are given to pupils during Year 9 and Year 10. These tests advise staff of pupil progression and of the possible need of additional help for pupils with continuing difficulties.

Close liaison with parents ensures that pupils are given the most suitable provision for their individual needs. Parents' and pupils' views are sought as part of the IEP target-setting process. In line with the Code of Practice, the school operates a 3 Stage Plan with regard to its children who are experiencing learning and/or behavioural difficulties.

Pupils with physical disabilities have access to all curriculum areas. Entrances and exits are ramped and there is an 8-person key-operated lift. The school also has a fully equipped accessible toilet. PE facilities also include accessible toileting and changing facilities. The main school has full-time Special Educational Needs General Assistants.

Learning Support Centre (LSC)

In our Learning Support Centre, we provide a special learning environment for pupils aged 11-16 years who hold a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Our goal is to help our pupils overcome emotional, social, and educational difficulties so they can reach their full potential. The LSC consists of three purpose-built classrooms that are designed to be pleasant, well-resourced, and stimulating. We understand that many of our pupils have complex needs, so we provide a nurturing atmosphere where they can thrive. Our dedicated staff and classroom assistants ensure that each pupil receives the individual help and support they need to succeed.

In the LSC, we believe in the power of personalised learning. With a favourable staff to pupil ratio, we can provide more one-on-one and small group teaching. This allows us to tailor our teaching to each pupil's specific needs, ensuring they learn at a pace that is right for them. We use a variety of teaching styles, resources, and activities to engage our pupils and help them realise their true potential.

In our school we have a large, well-equipped sensory room which is made available to all pupils in our school to use. In addition to the sensory room, we also have three dedicated chill-out rooms exclusively for the pupils in our LSC. These rooms are designed to help our pupils feel calm and relaxed and are incredibly important as they provide a safe and peaceful space where our pupils can regulate their emotions, recharge, regain focus and reduce stress and anxiety. We are proud to offer these special rooms within our Learning Support Centre, as they play a vital role in supporting our pupils' emotional well-being and academic success.

While the LSC is a separate learning environment, we are an integral part of the main school. Our pupils are taught by specialist teachers from the mainstream classes for subjects like Music, P.E.,

Technology and Design, Home Economics, Science, Modern Languages, and Art. Our pupils are also encouraged to participate in a wide range of afterschool activities and clubs, just like their peers in mainstream classes.

In the LSC, we are committed to equipping our pupils with the skills they need to thrive in the community and society. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that allows pupils to develop their skills and interests in a stimulating and caring environment. We believe in equal opportunities for all and strive to create an inclusive learning environment where every pupil can succeed.

6. Curriculum

During 2023-24 the compulsory subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum were taught to all our pupils. The Key Stage 3 Learning Areas are:

- The Arts (Art & Design, Music, Drama)
- English (including Media Education)
- Environment & Society (Geography, History)
- Learning for Life & Work (Personal Development, Local & Global Citizenship, Education for Employability, Home Economics)
- Mathematics (including Financial Capability)
- Modern Languages (French, Spanish)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science and Technology (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Technology & Design)

Additional curriculum initiatives also facilitated the provisions for Special Educational Needs, Under-Achievement and Supporting Newcomer Needs.

Key Stage 4 pupils in the Learning Support Centre completed the following qualifications:

- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills Application of Number
- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills in Communication
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills Adult Numeracy
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills Adult Literacy
- CCEA Occupational Studies Business & Services (Levels 1 and 2)
- CCEA Occupational Studies Technology & Innovation (Levels 1 and 2)
- OCN Prince's trust Extended Certificate (Levels 1 and 2)

Extra-Curricular Activities included Rugby, Football, Hockey, Netball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Athletics, Swimming, Basketball, Darts, Outdoor Pursuits, Cross-Country Running, Minecraft Club, Art Club, Film Club, Eco Club, STEM Club, Drama Club, Scripture Union, Creative Writing Club, Homework Club, Technology Club, Cookery Club, Chess Club, School Choir, Band, Guitar Ensemble and Flute Ensemble, together with a varied programme of Music Tuition.

7. Pastoral Care

All staff have responsibility for promoting and implementing the pastoral care programme and over the past few years there has been a focus on how staff create a safe and secure environment. Staff

training has been completed to introduce the concept of trauma informed practice and the impact that adverse childhood experiences can have on a child's development and ability to learn.

The Personal Development programme has been reviewed to reflect the new RSE Progression Framework in correspondence with Clounagh Junior High School's Christian Ethos. This is delivered by most teaching staff and is coordinated by Mrs Gray. Part of this provision is the engagement with external agencies including Love for Life and the PSNI.

Our Behaviour Management Policy, which is due for review in 2024-25, works on the principles of rewards and sanctions and promotes the values of respect and care for others. Significant training on routines to promote positive behaviour took place in August 2023 and is incorporated to staff training annually. This was complemented in October with training on supporting young people with ADHS which was facilitated by the Post Primary Behaviour Support Team. The Year Heads along with the Vice-Principals take responsibility for the home school liaison, monitoring of pupil progress and addressing pupil pastoral needs. A number of external agencies supported the school, including the Educational Welfare Officer, Social Services, PSNI, Behaviour Support Team, Educational Psychologists, School Health Team, Links Counselling Service, Reach Mentoring and the YMCA.

Form Teachers take responsibility for monitoring pupil attendance and report regularly to Year Heads and the Attendance Co-ordinator. The Attendance Co-ordinator and a Vice-Principal liaised with parents and the Educational Welfare Officer as required. The Educational Welfare Officer worked closely with staff and pupils to assist the promotion of good attendance. Attendance for the 2023/24 year was 90.1%. Improvement in this area has been supported by the appointment of a Pupil Attendance and Welfare Support worker.

8. Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance

As part of the broader Learning for Life and Work curriculum, Employability at Key Stage 3 aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the world of work of work. In Clounagh Junior High School, Education for Employability follows the NI Revised Curriculum and focuses on the main concepts of:

- Local and Global Economy;
- Career Management and Planning;
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship;
- Skills and Qualities for Work;
- Financial Capabilities.

Employability education is delivered through a user-friendly interactive course which encourages young people to self-market themselves and think about their career pathway. We promote links with local employers and work with outside agencies such as Young Enterprise, Learn Spark and Sentinus to give students the opportunity to broaden their understanding and skill set. Pupils in the Learning Support Centre also complete Employability as part of the course at Key Stage 3 and 4, and this collaborates with various vocational subjects that are offered to the Senior Class, including Patisserie, Carpentry and Joinery, Bench Joinery and Communication in an Office or Business Environment. Senior pupils in the Learning Support Centre who attend Occupational Studies classes also benefit from a close working relationship with the Careers Adviser, as do Year 10 students who can contact our Careers Advisor, Mrs Shelley Lyness, at anytime to discuss subject options and qualifications for jobs.

9. Educational Achievements

Key Stage 4 pupils in the Learning Support Centre attained the following qualifications:

Qualification	Level	Number of pupils
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Numeracy	Entry Level 1	3
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Numeracy	Entry Level 2	3
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Numeracy	Entry Level 3	2
OCN Certificate in Essential Skills – Application of Number	Level 2	1
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 1	2
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 2	4
OCN Entry Level Certificate in Essential Skills – Adult Literacy	Entry Level 3	5
OCN Certificate in Essential Skills - Communication	Level 2	1
Prince's Trust Award in Personal Development & Employability Skills	Entry Level 3	1
Prince's Trust Extended Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Skills	Level 2	4
Prince's Trust Diploma Personal Development & Employability Skills	Level 2	2
CCEA Occupational Studies Business & Services	Level 2	4

10. Destination of Leavers

In June 2024, arrangements for the transfer of Year 10 pupils were finalised as follows:

77	Portadown College
134	Craigavon Senior High School
6	Other schools
217	Total

11. Percentage Attendance Rate for 2023-24

90.1%