



GORRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Annual Report of Board of Governors 2024/25

Board of Governors 2024/25

Mr. I Gregg (Chair), Mr. W Campbell, Mrs. G Boyce, Mr. D Kelly, Mrs. H Workman, Mr. G McIlroy, Mr. J Young and Mrs. M Fitzpatrick. Secretary: Mr. J Cleland (Principal)

Dates of Operation

Autumn term: 30th August – 20th December 2024

School closed: 28th Oct – 1st October – (Half Term and Teacher Training)

Spring term: 6th January – 15th April 2025

School closed: 10th - 14th February (Half Term and Teacher Training)

Summer term: 28th April – 27th June 2025

School closed: 5th and 26th May 2025 Bank Holidays.

Summary of Business Transacted by the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met on four occasions during the academic year. Across these meetings, the Governors provided strategic oversight and made key decisions in the following areas:

- Finance – reviewing budgets, approving expenditure, and ensuring financial accountability
- Staffing – supporting recruitment, staffing structures, and professional development
- Premises and Maintenance – overseeing site improvements and ensuring a safe learning environment
- Monitoring Pupil Progress – reviewing attainment data and supporting school improvement priorities
- School Development Planning – contributing to the ongoing development and evaluation of the School Development Plan
- Policy Review and Approval – ensuring that statutory and school-specific policies are up to date and fit for purpose

The Board remains committed to supporting the leadership and staff of Gorran Primary School in providing the best possible education for all pupils.

Security

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff, and visitors continues to be a top priority at Gorran Primary School. Gorran has procedures in place to keep pupils safe and ensure a welcoming environment for all. We have maintained secure access to the main building through controlled entry points and regular monitoring. All visitors are required to sign in and staff are trained to challenge any unidentified individuals on site. To support safe arrival and departure from school, staff have continued to carry out daily gate duty. They help manage traffic flow and ensure that children are safely handed over to parents and carers. The hard work from staff has helped to ensure children are kept safe at home time. In addition, we have submitted plans for a comprehensive traffic management scheme aimed at improving safety around the school perimeter. These proposals include new staff car parking, bus stop, drop off area, perimeter fencing. This project continues to face delays due to lack of funding at department level. We continue to press the education authority to move this initiative forward.



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Child Protection and Safeguarding

Gorran Primary School remains fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all pupils. We continue to uphold a strong safeguarding culture, ensuring that all staff, governors, and volunteers understand their responsibilities and follow best practice.

Designated Safeguarding Roles

- Mrs Doey – Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Mrs J Murphy – Deputy Designated Teacher
- Mr W Campbell – Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Mr I Gregg – Chairperson of the Board of Governors

All safeguarding procedures are in line with Department of Education guidance, and regular training ensures that staff are confident in identifying and responding to concerns.

Preventative Curriculum

Child protection is embedded within our preventative curriculum, which includes Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), online safety, anti-bullying education, and emotional wellbeing. Pupils are taught how to stay safe, make informed choices, and seek help when needed.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care remains a strength of the school. Staff know pupils well and provide a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued, and supported. Relationships across the school are positive, and pupils are encouraged to talk openly about their feelings and experiences.

Monitoring and Review

Safeguarding policies are reviewed annually by the Board of Governors, and child protection remains a standing item on governor meeting agendas. The school continues to work closely with external agencies when required, ensuring a joined-up approach to pupil welfare.

Enrolment and Attendance

The enrolment at the start of September was 91 and we finished the year with 92 children on the register. Attendance for the year was 97.24%.

Staff

Teaching Staff -

Mr Cleland (Principal)
Mrs Fitzpatrick (Senior Teacher)
Mrs Doey (3 Days)
Mrs Parkhill (3 Days)
Mrs Murphy (4 Days)
Mrs Blackstock (2 Days)

Non Teaching -

Mrs Armstrong (CA P1/2 and Supervisor)
Mrs Bellingham (CA P3/4 and Secretary)
Mrs Small (SENCA and Supervisor)
Mrs Morrell (SENCA)
Mrs Kelly (SENCA and Supervisor)
Mrs Connor (Supervisor and Building Supervisor)
Miss T Mitchell (SENCA and Supervisor)
Mrs Shaw (Supervisor)

Curriculum

This year, our primary curriculum has continued to develop in line with our vision to provide a broad, balanced, and enriching education for all pupils. We remain committed to ensuring that every child receives a curriculum that is ambitious, inclusive, and designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning.

Curriculum Design and Delivery

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills over time, with clear progression from Early Years through to Key Stage 2. Subject leaders have worked collaboratively to refine long-term plans,



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ensuring coverage of the National Curriculum while embedding opportunities for cross-curricular learning and real-world connections.

Inclusion and Support

Our curriculum is designed to be accessible to all learners, with a strong emphasis on equity and personalised support. This year, we have developed a comprehensive provision map to better identify and respond to the needs of a greater number of pupils. This tool has enabled us to track interventions more effectively, monitor impact, and ensure that support is targeted and timely.

Teachers continue to use adaptive teaching strategies to meet the needs of pupils with SEND and those requiring additional support. Regular reviews and pupil progress meetings ensure that provision remains responsive and inclusive. We also work closely with external agencies to enhance support where needed.

Reading and Vocabulary Development

Reading remains at the heart of our curriculum. This year, staff have received targeted training from Nessy, a well-regarded programme that supports phonics, reading fluency, and strategies for learners with dyslexia and other literacy needs. This has strengthened our approach to early reading and intervention, ensuring consistency and impact across year groups.

We continue to invest in high-quality texts and resources to foster a love of reading and improve comprehension. Vocabulary development is embedded across the curriculum, helping pupils to express themselves confidently and access more complex ideas in both spoken and written language.

Foundation Subjects and Enrichment

We have strengthened our provision in foundation subjects, including history, geography, art, and music, ensuring that pupils experience a rich and varied curriculum. Educational visits, themed days, and extracurricular clubs have enhanced learning and supported the development of cultural capital.

Next Steps

Looking ahead, our curriculum priorities include:

- **Embedding phonics work into planning** across all relevant year groups to ensure consistency and progression in early reading.
- **Reviewing curriculum impact through pupil voice and outcomes**, ensuring that children's experiences and achievements inform future planning.
- **Implementing Number Sense strategies into mental maths sessions**, supporting fluency and confidence in mathematical thinking.
- **Raising standards in ICT across the school**, with a focus on digital literacy, computing skills, and purposeful use of technology in learning.



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Extra-Curricular Provision

Gorran Primary School continues to offer a wide and varied programme of extra-curricular activities that enrich pupils' experiences beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, children have had the opportunity to participate in clubs including Baking, Choir, Art, Football, Hockey, Running, Spanish, Tag Rugby, Board Games, Coding, and Drama. These activities support the development of creativity, teamwork, resilience, and personal interests.

We have also welcomed several external specialists to enhance our provision. This has included expert-led sessions in Music, Gymnastics, and Scripture Union, providing pupils with high-quality experiences and exposure to new skills and disciplines.

The Board of Governors would like to express their sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers, and visiting professionals who have contributed to the delivery of extra-curricular activities at Gorran. Their commitment and enthusiasm have had a significant impact on the lives of our pupils.

Wraparound Care Provision

The school continues to run a Sunrise Club from 8:10am each morning, which is regularly attended by around 8–10 pupils. This provides a calm and structured start to the day, supporting working families and promoting positive routines.

Our Kids Club offers after-school childcare until 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday. It is well attended, with early sessions frequently at capacity. The school acknowledges the care and compassion consistently shown by our Kids Club staff, whose work plays a vital role in supporting pupils' wellbeing and family needs

Sport at Gorran Primary School

This year has been another active and successful one for sport at Gorran Primary School, with pupils enthusiastically representing the school across a wide range of competitions and activities.

Competitive Participation

Our pupils took part in a variety of local and regional sporting events, including:

- Coleraine and District Football League
- Girls' Football Competitions
- Coleraine FC Tournaments (Boys and Girls)
- Causeway Football League
- Coleraine Cricket Tournament (Boys and Girls)
- Ulster Hockey Blitzes (Boys and Girls)
- Ulster Athletics – Cross Country

All Gorran football teams performed strongly, often reaching the final stages of tournaments. On three occasions, teams were narrowly defeated on penalties — a testament to their competitive spirit and resilience. The season ended on a high note with the school retaining the **Brown Trout Trophy**, bringing well-deserved silverware back to the school.

Both hockey teams also enjoyed successful blitz tournaments. The girls' team notably finished **3rd in the Causeway section**, earning a place in the prestigious **McCloy Finals** at Stormont Playball in Belfast. This was a remarkable achievement for a small rural school, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience — one they will remember for years to come.

Participation and Engagement

While competitive success is always welcome, our greatest pride lies in the **level of pupil participation**.

Sports clubs for P5–P7 regularly attract over **25 pupils**, with strong representation from both boys and girls.



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Pupils show great enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork, whether training, competing, or simply enjoying physical activity.

It is also encouraging to see so many of our pupils involved in **local sports clubs and youth groups**, further developing their skills and confidence beyond the school setting.

Music and Drama

Music and drama continue to play a vibrant and valued role in the life of Gorran Primary School, offering pupils a wide range of opportunities to perform, express themselves, and build confidence.

Performance and Participation

This year, pupils took part in a variety of musical and dramatic events, including:

- **Coleraine Music Festival** – with strong participation in both singing and poetry categories
- **Choir performances** at Trinity House and Tesco, spreading joy to the community
- **Instrumental tuition** in piano and flute, delivered during the school day
- A festive **Christmas service** held at Aghadowey Presbyterian Church
- A highly successful **Spring Concert**, which welcomed guests from Trinity House

We were especially proud of the high levels of participation at the **Coleraine Music Festival**, where pupils achieved success in both individual and group performances. Their enthusiasm, preparation, and talent were clear to see and warmly received by audiences and adjudicators alike.

A Core Part of School Life

Music remains a central part of the Gorran experience. Whether through formal performances, classroom learning, or extracurricular opportunities, pupils are encouraged to explore their creativity and develop their musical and dramatic abilities.

Community Links

At Gorran Primary School, we are proud to maintain strong and meaningful connections with our local community. We actively seek opportunities for pupils to engage with local groups, events, and initiatives, helping to foster a sense of belonging, service, and citizenship.

Throughout the year, our pupils and staff have taken part in a wide range of community activities, including:

- Participation in **Remembrance Sunday** commemorations
- Hosting visits from **Aghadowey Playgroup** and **Garvagh Playgroup**
- Visiting and performing for residents at **Trinity House** and **The Fold**
- Taking part in the **Christmas Lights Switch-On**
- Engaging in the **Garvagh People's Forest Biomimicry Project**
- Regular **church visits** and maintaining strong links with local church leaders
- Contributing to **St Guaire's Flower Festival**
- Supporting **Operation Christmas Child** through shoebox donations
- Fundraising for our chosen charity, **Stand by Me**

These activities not only enrich our pupils' experiences but also strengthen the school's role at the heart of the community. We are grateful to all who support and welcome our involvement, and we look forward to continuing these valuable partnerships in the year ahead.

Educational Visits 2025/25

Educational visits continue to be an important and enriching part of the learning experience at Gorran Primary School. This year, pupils enjoyed a wide range of trips that supported curriculum learning, encouraged outdoor exploration, and helped build social and emotional development.

Highlights from this year's visits include:



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- **Garvagh Forest** – Outdoor learning experiences that supported science, geography, and wellbeing
- **Mountsandel Forest** – Exploring local history and nature in a hands-on environment
- **Beach Trips** – Linking learning to coastal geography and environmental awareness
- **Coleraine History Trail** – Bringing local history to life through guided exploration
- **Whole School Cinema Trip** – A festive Christmas movie experience at the Playhouse, Portrush
- **Woodhall Outdoor Education Centre** – Team-building and adventure activities promoting resilience and cooperation
- **Rosepark Farm** – A fun and educational day exploring animals, farming, and rural life
- **Airport Trip** – as part of P5/6 transport project.

These visits not only enhanced classroom learning but also provided memorable experiences that helped pupils connect with the world around them. We are grateful to staff, parents, and volunteers who supported these opportunities and helped make them possible.

Parental Involvement

Parental engagement continues to be a valued and vital part of life at Gorran Primary School. This year, our **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** has played an active and supportive role in both fundraising and community-building efforts.

The PTA met regularly throughout the year and contributed to school life in a number of meaningful ways, including:

- Organising the **Tractor Run 2025**, a popular and well-attended community event
- Hosting two **Cash for Clobber** collection days
- Running **school discos** that were thoroughly enjoyed by pupils
- Funding the purchase of new **managed laptops** to enhance digital learning
- Purchasing **new storage sheds** to improve outdoor organisation and resources
- Providing a **PA system** for use during sports day and other outdoor events

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and generosity shown by our PTA. Their efforts not only raise valuable funds but also help strengthen the school's connection with the wider community. A special thank you goes to **Mrs Sandra Shaw**, our current PTA Chair, and her dedicated team for their continued commitment and support. Their work makes a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can offer our pupils.

Shared Education

This year, Gorran Primary School continued its strong partnership with **St Columba's Primary School, Ballerin** through our Shared Education programme. The collaboration provided valuable learning experiences for both pupils and staff, strengthening relationships and enhancing educational outcomes across both schools.

Foundation Stage Focus

Our youngest pupils engaged in joint sessions centred around **outdoor play and early science exploration**. These activities encouraged curiosity, teamwork, and hands-on learning in natural environments. Pupils benefited from shared experiences that supported their social development and early understanding of the world around them.

Key Stage 2 Focus

Older pupils participated in a wide-ranging **games programme**, which included **rugby, football, Gaelic football, hurling, and cricket**. These sessions promoted physical fitness, teamwork, and respect, while also



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giving pupils the opportunity to try new sports and build friendships with peers from a different school community.

Staff Development and Collaboration

The programme also provided **valuable professional development opportunities** for staff. Teachers from both schools collaborated on planning, delivery, and reflection, sharing expertise and developing new approaches to outdoor learning and PE.

Investment in Resources

Both Gorran and St Columba's were able to **invest in outdoor learning and sports equipment**, ensuring that the benefits of the programme extend beyond the shared sessions. These resources will continue to support high-quality learning experiences for all pupils.

The Shared Education programme has once again proven to be a **rich and rewarding experience** for everyone involved. We look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Mary Rankin Charity Endowment Fund

Mary Rankin Fund stands at £2561.77

The fund this year was used to cover transport costs.

Mary Rankin Charity

Date	Detail	Payments £	Receipts £
<i>Balance bfwd at 01/04/2024</i>			2,681.55
03.06.24	Dividend		268.00
28.06.24	Bank Interest		33.04
30.09.24	Bank Interest		34.85
01.12.24	Dividend		321.60
01.01.25	Bank Interest		35.34
15.01.25	Logan Coaches	800.00	
15.01.25	Translink	190.00	
15.01.25	Translink	150.00	
31.03.25	Bank Interest		22.77
<i>Balance cfwd at 31/03/2025</i>		2257.15	

School Fund

October 2024 - Balance £10,592.29

October 2025 – Balance £9,367.79

Internal Audit, Board of Governors, October 2025.

STRIPE (School's online payment system)

STRIPE, in the school year 2024/25, handled – 4209 payments (Net Volume £,43,600.83)

Current STRIPE fees 1.5% + 20p per transaction.



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