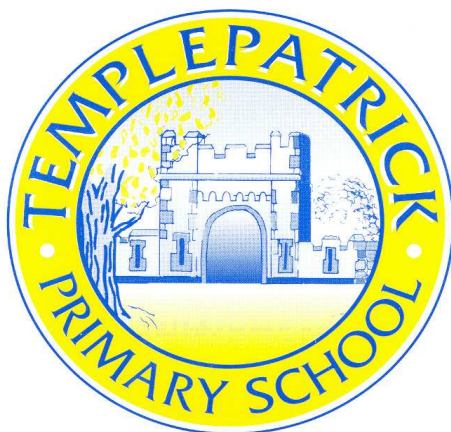


# TEMPLEPATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL



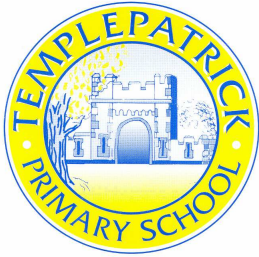
## ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT

**School Year 2008/2009**

Templepatrick Primary School, 5 Lylehill Road, Templepatrick, BT39 OAQ.  
Telephone 02894432486

Governors' Annual Report 2008 – 2009

February 2010



## **Templepatrick Primary School**

### **Governors' Annual Report 2008 – 2009**

Dear Parent

Each year it is the duty of all schools to issue a Governors' Report giving details of how the school has functioned during the previous year. The report for the year 2008 – 2009 is attached to this letter.

Should you wish to have any additional information, or any aspect of the report clarified, I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing to the Principal.

I commend the report for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mr J McConnell  
Chairperson  
Board of Governors

# TEMPLEPATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2008 – 2009

### INTRODUCTION

This report has been produced by the Governors of Templepatrick Primary School and is a summary account of the work that we have undertaken in carrying out our responsibilities for the management of the School during the year 2008/2009.

### THE GOVERNORS

#### **The Members of the Board**

The current Board of Governors of the School was constituted for the 2006 – 2010 period. The Board is made up of the Principal and nine representatives who have been nominated by (a) NEELB, (b) Churches, or elected by (c) parents and (d) the teaching staff. All Governors except the Principal are voting members.

#### **(a) North-Eastern Education and Library Board Representatives**

NEELB is the local Education Authority and has the right to nominate two representatives. These presently are:

1. Mr A Lawther (Vice Chairperson)
2. Mr M Lucas

#### **(b) Transferor Representatives**

Transferor Representatives are those who ‘transferred’ to the state system from the old church school system in 1921. Transferor representatives are nominated from particular church bodies. These presently are:

1. Rev P Dalzell
2. Rev S Fielding
3. Rev R Kerr
4. Mr J McConnell (Chairperson)

#### **(c) Parents’ Representatives**

Each Governing Body of a Primary School is entitled to have two parent representatives. They are elected by the parents of pupils attending the School and serve for the four year term of each Board. The only qualification to be a parents’ representative is that on the date of the election the proposed parent has a child attending the School. The parent representatives currently are:

1. Mr A Hamilton
2. Mr R Wilson

#### **(d) Assistant Teachers’ Representative**

A teacher representative is elected by the teaching staff once every four years. The present representative on the Board is:

1. Miss M Wright

The Principal of the School is secretary and a non voting member.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

A statutory requirement of one Governors’ meeting per term has always been in place but the increasing responsibilities on schools to manage what were once central issues has meant that more meetings have to be called. During this year eight meetings of the Board of Governors and seven sub-committee meetings were held.

### **Governor Responsibilities**

Apart from the long established responsibilities for the Appointment of Staff, Discipline, Grievance and Suspension/Dismissal Procedures, our devolved responsibilities in the overall management of the school now include the following areas – The Curriculum, Special Education Needs, Assessment, Admissions, Child Protection, Security and Personal Safety, Finance (including School Salary Policies), Management of Staff, Internal Maintenance, Annual Governors’ Report and the Prospectus.

### **Sub-Committees**

Sub-committees have been formed to consider reports and to make proposals for consideration by the whole Board in the following areas of responsibility.

- Grievance and Discipline
- Teachers’ Salaries and General Finance
- Appeals’ Committee

Final decisions are reached by the full Board of Governors.

Overall responsibility for the day to day running of the school continues to rest with the Principal and he is also responsible for the monitoring of school spending and for advising the Board on any problems that may arise.

## STAFFING

The staff comprised of the Principal, Vice-Principal, fourteen full-time teachers and three part-time teachers (P2 and P5 Job Share and Special Needs Teacher). There were fourteen classes and the part-time teacher catered for children with Special Education Needs. Within the staffing structure of the school and adhering to agreed job descriptions every teacher assumed responsibility for the organisation of teaching within an area of the curriculum and/or some other area concerning the welfare of the pupils or the management of resources within the school. Charged with these responsibilities our staff continue to perform an essential function and their commitment is paramount to the school's success.

<b>Principal</b>	Mr RD Cromie
<b>Vice Principal</b>	Mr G Gault
<b>Head of Key Stage 1</b>	Miss M Wright
<b>Head of Key Stage 2</b>	Mrs L Harbinson
<b>Primary One</b>	Miss M Wright and Mrs N Beckington
<b>Primary Two</b>	Mrs A Chada and Mrs L Hamill/Mrs S Alcorn
<b>Primary Three</b>	Mrs K Moore and Mrs J Uprichard
<b>Primary Four</b>	Mr D Alcorn and Mrs E Carser
<b>Primary Five</b>	Mrs D Tweed/Mr P Campbell and Mr C Cooper
<b>Primary Six</b>	Mr G Gault and Mrs J McCorry
<b>Primary Seven</b>	Mrs L Harbinson and Mr P Shaw
<b>Special Needs</b>	Mrs J Hill
<b>Head of Nursery</b>	Mrs C Gregory
<b>Nursery Assistants</b>	Mrs C Meers, Mrs J Moore and Mrs Shiels
<b>Classroom Assistants</b>	Mrs K Pancott, Mrs R Gallop, Miss J Hyde, Mrs L Armstrong, Mrs D Reid, Mrs A Frizzell & Mrs A Hamilton
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs R Hutchinson
<b>Caretaker</b>	Mr G Bodles
<b>Cleaners</b>	Mrs A Milne, Ms S Fletcher Mrs D Herron and Ms A Price
<b>Cook Supervisors</b>	Mrs P Doole, Mrs J Bell, Mrs L Murdoch and Mrs A Newton
<b>Supervisory Assistants</b>	Mrs E McIlwaine, Miss J Hyde, Mrs A Hamilton, Mrs M Holden, Mrs L Armstrong, Mrs Reid & Mrs A Frizzell
<b>Patrolperson</b>	Mrs E McIlwaine

## ENROLMENT

Our school enrolment is set at 390 pupils. In September 2008 school commenced with 372 pupils (189 boys and 183 girls). Class sizes ranged from 25 to 30 pupils. Fifty-three pupils were enrolled in Primary One and fifty-six proceeded to the post primary education.

Our Nursery had a full enrolment of 52 part-time pupils.

## ATTENDANCE

The overall attendance for the year was 96%.

## TRANSFER PROCEDURE

Pupils transferred to the Grammar/Secondary Sector at the end of the school year as follows:

Antrim Grammar School (9), Ballyclare High (17), Ballyclare Secondary (8), Ballymena Academy (1), BRA (11), Campbell College (1), Cambridge House (1), Crumlin Integrated (1), Dominican College (1), Larne Grammar (1), Parkhall College (2), Rockport (1), Slemish College (1) and Victoria College (1). Total 56 pupils.

The results in the Transfer Procedure Tests were as follows: A - 27, B1 - 5, B2 - 4, C1 - 6, C2 - 5, D - 9 and Opt-Out - 0.

## END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT

End of Key Stage Assessment for P4 and P7 were completed in June 2008 and the results were reported home to parents of these children.

**Key Stage One** (Level 3 is the highest level attainable in Key Stage One.)

Mathematics: Level 1: 2%, Level 2: 26%, Level 3: 72%

English : Level 1: 2%, Level 2: 44%, Level 3: 54%

**Key Stage Two** (Level 5 is the highest level attainable in Key Stage Two.)

Mathematics: Level 2: 0%, Level 3: 4%, Level 4: 24%, Level 5: 72%

English : Level 2: 0%, Level 3: 8%, Level 4: 60%, Level 5: 32%

Once again all of these results are well above the Northern Ireland average reflecting the very high standards set in our school.

The Department of Education provides data that allows schools to put their performance into context and to compare it with that of schools with similar proportions of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) and those of a similar size. In comparing this data it is relevant to note that the figures available from DENI are from 2005/06 and it is not entirely satisfactory to use these for 2008/09.

*In the following four tables Templepatrick's 2008/09 percentages for attaining the highest level in Key Stage 1 (Level 3) and Key Stage 2 (Level 5) have been inserted (shaded in brackets) into the relevant table for 2005/06 provided by the Department.*

### Key Stage One Percentage of Children achieving level 3

#### **Free School Meal Bands**

Schools with 0 – 9.99% of children entitled to free school meals (321 schools):-

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
English	26.7	41.9	(54) 60.0	86.7
Mathematics	34.6	50.0	70.3 (72)	88.9

#### **School size bands**

Schools with 211 – 499 children (228 schools):-

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
English	27.6	37.5	50.0 (54)	72.1
Mathematics	34.0	46.5	57.1	(72) 82.5

### Key Stage Two Percentage of Children achieving level 5

#### **Free School Meal Bands**

Schools with 0 – 9.99% of children entitled to free school meals (319 schools):-

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
English	0.0	25.0	(32) 37.7	60.5
Mathematics	31.3	45.8	62.5 (72)	84.6

## School size bands

Schools with between 211 – 499 children (227 schools):-

	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
English	11.1	21.9	(32) 32.1	46.2
Mathematics	27.3	40.3	51.1	66.7 (72)

It would be our expectation that this school should be attaining results that are in the Upper Quartile or above.

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School's Development Plan (SDP) prioritised the following areas –

### NURSERY

#### *Ethos*

- To ensure that Nursery Policies on Child Protection issues are comprehensive and appropriate and in line with DE guidelines. Nursery staff will adopt practices which ensure that these practices are fully implemented.
- To continue to promote a healthy lifestyle and awareness of the environment.

#### *Learning and Teaching*

- To implement an effective system for monitoring and assessing children's progress and development using Schema.

#### *Management*

- To ensure that maximum use is made of the skills and expertise of all nursery staff and that the needs of the children are given the highest priority.

### PRIMARY

#### *Ethos*

- To continue the review of our Pastoral Care Policies and update training wherever necessary.
- Further training in Child Protection for all members of staff.

#### *Learning and Teaching*

- PDMU as a whole school development (Graham)
- Assessment for Learning – continuation of development
- Assessment – continuation (Lisa)
- Pupil Profiles – further development (Lisa)
- Interactive Whiteboard - Further Training (David)
- The teaching of Reading in Year 3 (Miriam)
- A Review of Play Based Learning (Miriam)

#### *Management*

- Monitoring and Evaluation of Learning & Teaching (Ray, Graham & Heads of Stages)
- New Build (Ray and all staff)

As an integral part of the SDP appropriate action plans were written for each of the priority areas by the subject co-ordinators and as with any plan it was recognised that some of these would move along into the 2009/2010 year.

## CURRICULUM

During the year the review and development of curriculum subjects has continued in order to fulfil our statutory requirements in relation to the breadth and balance of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Staff continued to attend relevant training either provided by the NEELB, RTU or as 'in house' training in school.

Under the leadership of Mr Gault the SMT were fully involved in monitoring and evaluating the learning and teaching occurring in school with the Learning and Teaching Policy being used as the reference point for good practice. The SMT carried out class visits and reported back to staff, book scoops happened at regular intervals and schemes of work and 6-weekly planners assessed.

Mrs Harbinson continued to co-ordinate assessment within school and standardised testing for P3 – P7 pupils took place in late May. The results of these were provided to parents along with the end of year report. Tracking of pupils who have difficulties continues and the tests are proving to be very valuable in identifying pupils who need further assessment by Mrs Hill, our Special Needs Teacher. Our Primary 4 and 5 pupils participated in InCAS (Interactive Computerised Assessment System) with results being reported to parents at parent/teacher consultations.

PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) was the priority area of the Revised Curriculum chosen to be developed and staff received training within school. Planning and classroom practice has been adjusted in order that PDMU becomes an integral part of the school day.

Our Primary One and Two parents attended information sessions on 'Jolly Phonics' and changes to how reading was being taught within school.

The School ECO Committee under the charge of Mrs Gallop and Mrs Reid continued to highlight issues regarding the environment with paper and plastic bottles being collected within school for recycling by Antrim Council. Compost bins were used to hold the foodstuffs collected in the school each day. Various collections were held – Textile Recycling, Yellow Pages, Fones4Schools – and a 'walking to school' day was organised to highlight carbon usage.

We continued to be a partner school with Ballyclare High School with our P6 and P7 pupils benefiting from the expertise of the liaison teacher and also through visits to the IT suite in the High School. The P7 classes completed CEA IT Accreditation in June. Indeed over the last few years we have also established close links with Antrim Grammar and BRA.

### ***Special Education Needs***

During the year individual education plans were drawn up and implemented as required by The Statutory Code of Practice. Standardised Testing helps to identify those children who may need some extra assistance. These children are tested further by the SENCO in order to more accurately assess need. A total of 28 children were placed on the Special Needs Register for the year. Support was either in the form of in class assistance or withdrawal from class as individuals or small groups. Outside assistance was provided by the NEELB in the form of a Literacy Support Teacher who attended the school on two afternoons each week. Use was also made of the Education Psychology Service to carry out assessments.

### ***Health Education***

Puberty and hygiene talks were organised for our Primary 7 pupils and given by the school nurse in the presence of a member of staff.

The school ECO Committee in conjunction with the PTA Committee again organised a 'Healthy Eating' week involving the whole school and it was very encouraging to see the encouraging response to this initiative. We would like to convey our thanks to the PTA members who produced trays of fruit for all classes at break-time throughout the week and also to Mr Shiels for supplying the fruit.

The School Nurse also gave talks on Healthy Eating to all classes.

### ***Education for Mutual Understanding and Links with the Community***

This was promoted as an integral part of the curriculum, with children recognising the needs and differences of others in an environment of mutual respect.

Our sponsored Disco replaced the Walk as our main event for raising money for charity. This year the tremendous total of £4,742 was raised. This speaks volumes of the efforts of our pupils and the generosity of you, our parents. Donations were given to the following charities – Ethiopian Schools Project (£500), Marie Curie Cancer Care (£1,550), RNLI (£1,550), Poppy Appeal (£177.82), Ballyclare Lions (£100), Fields of Life (£510), Zimbabwe Orphan Care (£650) and St Annes Cathedral (£50).

Speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds regularly addressed the children in Assembly.

The school was made available to outside organisations including The Women's Institute, Irish Dancing, Templepatrick Alexandra Football Club, Templepatrick Community Action Group and an Aerobics Club.

### ***Drugs Education***

The school had no instances of drug abuse during the year, but continues to be aware of the widespread problem in our community. A series of Drug Awareness sessions were conducted with the P7 classes in accordance with N.E.E.L.B. guidelines. The 'Life Education Centre' visited the school for a week and all pupils were given talks relating to healthy living issues. Some parents also took part in a course highlighting the dangers of drugs in our society. A copy of the school's Drugs Policy is available on request from the Principal.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

The area of Child Protection is one that the school takes very seriously and the policies in place meet Department guidelines for this area. Parental concerns are investigated thoroughly, appropriate action taken whenever necessary and feedback given to those concerned. As a matter of course Governors are briefed on relevant issues.

Parents who wished to assist in the work of the school continued to complete Access NI forms thus helping to ensure that all adults who have contact with our pupils have had the necessary police checks completed.

Strategies have also been put in place to ensure that all pupils are aware of who can help them if they have any concerns, and they are regularly reminded of the teachers in the school who are responsible for Child Protection.

The issue of 'Bullying' and what this is, what you should do and why, is raised throughout the school year in morning assembly, during Circle Time sessions in individual classes and by visiting Theatre Groups. Posters dealing with this issue are displayed through the school building.

### **NURSERY**

The Nursery Unit had two full classes again this year. Forty four children attended in their pre-school year. Of these 39 moved into Primary One in Templepatrick Primary School with the rest going on to Loanends Primary (3), St. Mary's on the Hill Primary (1), Fairview Primary (1).

The remaining 8 places were filled with children in their penultimate pre-school year all of whom returned to the Nursery for a second year.

The environmental work continues with children, staff and parents all taking part in recycling and planting activities throughout the year. Work on the green flag was minimal due to the disruption to the outdoor play area during the building work.

The staff attended phase two training in understanding Schema in children's learning (Phase one of the project was attended last year).

Once again we are grateful for the ongoing support and goodwill of two of our local librarians, Mrs Sharon Morrison and Mrs Josephine Patten, who very kindly agreed to maintain the link with the Nursery through storytelling sessions.

As usual we had a busy year with visits to the nursery from each of the emergency services, Jo Jingles, TACT, RSPB, Belfast Zoo, Happy Hedgehogs Rescue Centre and Dental Services. Our trips included an autumn walk at Greenmount Agricultural College, a trip to Castle Upton as part of our buildings theme in term two (our thanks go to Mrs Anna Kinahan for her hospitality) and our annual day trip for each of the classes to Streamvale Farm in June.

We would like to extend our thanks to all our parent volunteers without whom we would be unable to have these outings.

### **FINANCE**

For a summary of the Budget Report see Appendix A.

### **BUILDINGS and MAINTENANCE**

August saw the commencement of the building of the new school with the contractor, Farrans Construction, facing some very unseasonable weather in the first few weeks. Indeed the foundations took on the appearance of swimming pools for several weeks.

The build continued throughout the year causing very little disruption to school and indeed to the surrounding residents.

Eventually the move into part of the new school began at the start of July with all staff being involved. The movement of furniture and materials continued throughout July and August as parts of the new building became available. After a few anxious moments the building was ready to receive the pupils at the start of the 2009/2010 school year – an amazing feat in the time.

### **HOME SCHOOL LIAISON**

Formal contact with the school continues to play a vital role in the overall provision for our pupils. The following meetings for parents were held throughout the year: September parent evening, 'Jolly Phonics' for P1 parents, teaching of reading for P2 parents, Nursery and P1 Induction and Transfer Procedure for P6 parents.

As usual parent/teacher consultations were held as usual in:

Late September	Primary 7
October	Nursery, Primary 1 - 6
February	Nursery, Primary 7
March	Primary 1 – 6

An end of year written report was furnished for each pupil in June.

Parents also receive a weekly school Newsletter detailing the various events occurring in school.

Miss Wright organised parents to come in and help run the Infant Library.

These formal means of contact are enhanced by the many opportunities for informal contact both of which contribute significantly to the healthy home-school links we all enjoy.

School Policy determines that parents have immediate access to the Principal and Staff to resolve or discuss matters of concern.

***However to ensure the smooth running of the school, appointments should be made through the school secretary and under no circumstances should parents go to a classroom without first calling at the school office.***

### **SCHOOL BOOK FAIRS**

Two Book Fairs were held during the year with Mrs McCorry co-ordinating the events. These were both very successful with the School earning £2,000 book commission. All of this money was spent replenishing the Nursery, Junior and Senior libraries.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra curricular activities add a most enjoyable and valuable dimension to the children's school experience. All children receive physical education, music and art within the curriculum, but, in addition, a wide range of after school activities provides further opportunities to develop particular skills and interests.

This year the clubs included – Hockey, Football, Choir, Orchestra, Board Games, Pins & Needles, Mini-Rugby, Netball and P3 Activity.

**Mini-Rugby** – Winners of the South East Antrim Tournament. Unfortunately the team could not participate in the Ravenhill finals as the players were away on the P7 residential to Glasgow.

**Football** – Winners of the Antrim Area 11-a-side League, Runners Up in the Ballyclare 7-a-side League and reached the semi-finals of the Antrim Area 5 and 7-a-side tournaments.

**Netball** – League winners, reaching the NI Finals.

**Hockey** – Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in League, Runners-Up in Antrim Sixes and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ballyclare Mayfair Tournament.

**Choir** – Sang at Senior Christmas Performance, in Antrim Shopping Centre and

**Credit Union P6** – Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Antrim Area Tournament.

**Credit Union P7** – Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Antrim Area Tournament and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NI Final. Represented our school in the ALL Ireland Finals held in Dublin.

**Swimming** – Winners of the Antrim Schools' Perpetual Trophy (10<sup>th</sup> year in a row)

**Orchestra** – Performed at the Christmas Carol Service and Prize Day

## **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

### ***Office Bearers***

***Chairperson:*** Mr G Gault

***Vice Chairperson:*** vacant

***Secretary:*** Mrs J Clark

***Treasurer:*** Mr C Thompson

Unfortunately the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson remained unfilled but as a temporary measure Mr Gault took up the role of Chairperson. It should be noted that Mr Gault would only take this role on for the year and if the same thing happens again next year we will be left with no option but to fold the PTA until such a time when a parent is willing to become Chairperson.

However under the leadership of Mr Gault the PTA Committee had another very successful year raising, after expenses, a total of £13,000. This represents a tremendous total and all involved are to be congratulated. It should be noted that the committee took the decision to reduce the number of events in respect of the current economic position we all find ourselves in. The year saw the usual events being held for our pupils – discos, parties and Dragon Boat Racing (for the P7 pupils). Once again our Sportsday, even though disrupted by rain, was enhanced with the PTA providing medals and drinks for all participants. The Christmas and Summer Fairs were tremendous successes both in terms of money raised and the fun enjoyed by all. Along with the Quiz Evening, Social Evening, Clothes Swap, Balloon Release and Non-Uniform Day the programme was very varied and gave everyone a chance to participate.

With the move into the new build imminent the PTA were proud to release a total of £30,000 to the school to help pay towards the cost of the Nursery outdoor classroom and the FS/KS1 and KS2 Adventure Play areas.

Throughout the year our PTA continued to receive the support of many local businesses and for this we are extremely grateful. However it is, without a doubt, the selfless effort and commitment of the Committee that makes our PTA the great success it is.

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Our main priorities for the incoming year are:

### **NURSERY**

#### ***Ethos***

- To complete review of Nursery policies on Child Protection issues ensuring that they are comprehensive and appropriate and are in line with the latest DE guidelines. Also to oversee that they are adopted by Nursery staff so ensuring these practices are fully implemented.
- To liaise with the ECO School committee in the Primary School in order to coordinate efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle and awareness of the environment.

#### ***Learning and Teaching***

- To review the Nursery programme ensuring that it continues to introduce progressively more complex, varied and extensive ideas and experiences which extend the children's learning and development, taking account of the new learning environment.
- To embed new routines and practises relating to the new Nursery environment.

#### ***Management***

- Continue to improve the expertise and professional development of all staff including their awareness of gender differences in the early years and knowledge and awareness of children with special education needs.

## **PRIMARY**

### ***Ethos***

- To continue the review of our Pastoral Care Policies (Discipline / Positive Behaviour / Anti-Bullying Policies) and update training wherever necessary.

### ***Learning and Teaching***

- The World Around Us as a whole school development.
- Language and Literacy – Review of school spelling scheme and the teaching of handwriting.
- Interactive Whiteboard - Further Training.
- Continue the review of Play Based Learning in Foundation and Key Stage One.

### ***Management***

- Monitoring and Evaluation of Learning & Teaching throughout the Nursery Unit and Primary School.
- Consolidating the transition to the new building, completing furnishing, risk assessments and embedding new practices and routines into everyday school life.

**Monitoring and Evaluation will continue as a matter of course throughout the year.**

## **CONCLUSION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REPORT**

The Governors wish to commend this report to you and pay tribute to the efforts of the principal and staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who continue to work for the benefit of all children in our school. We believe that the educational experiences offered to pupils from Nursery through to Primary 7, whether inside or outside the classroom, help prepare our young people for their journey towards becoming responsible and productive citizens in the world we live in today.

We remain proud of our school and the people connected to it. We recognise the enormous contribution our pupils make to school life and are extremely grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from you, our parents. The Parent/Teacher Association continues to work tirelessly for the benefit of all in school and we congratulate them for their endeavours.

It is sad to report that the disparity of funding between the Nursery/Primary Sector and the Secondary Sector remains largely unchanged. The Department did increase the value of the Primary APWU by 0.01% however this made very little difference in real terms and the disparity of funding between the sectors remains a very serious issue and one that needs to be tackled effectively sooner rather than later.

As you will know the issue of Transfer to Post-Primary Education remains unresolved with the result being that we now have an unregulated system of transfer. The Minister may state that the Transfer Procedure (11+) has gone but a selective system remains – the only difference being that the Department of Education has relinquished control to the Grammar Schools. Not only have Primary Schools and staff throughout Northern Ireland been placed in an extremely difficult position, but parents and pupils have faced the same uncertainty. Indeed the result has been that all the pupils taking part in the 'entrance examinations' have been subjected to more tests than ever before. This is a situation that should not remain next year and it is the Governors wish that the political parties will find a solution to this issue, one that is fair and equitable to all parties but in particular to our children.

It was with tremendous pride and deep satisfaction that we witnessed the progress of the building of our new school and at this point we would like to congratulate the contractor, Farrans Construction, on the way they carried out the job. To have received no complaints from local residents throughout the duration of the build speaks volumes for the professional way everything was carried out. We are extremely impressed with the building and to date it is proving to be a very practical teaching area with all users enjoying the facilities. The move into the building required the participation of all our staff and we congratulate them in their unstinting efforts – quite simply the transition would not have gone so smoothly without their input. It is unfortunate that adverse weather conditions brought a halt to the completion of the playing fields, the drainage and seeding will be carried out as soon as possible in the new year.

The new school provides us with twenty-first century facilities in which to educate our children but as Governors we are only too aware that it is the people that make a school what it is. We are in no doubt therefore that Templepatrick Primary School will continue to provide first class educational experiences for all children who enrol.

In closing we remain confident that our school is in a good position to meet the challenges ahead and we look forward to working with everyone concerned in the years ahead.

**APPENDIX A**

**TEMPLEPATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Summary of Budget Report for Financial Year ending 31 March 2009**

	<b>£</b>
Teachers' Salaries	759,360
Auxiliary Staff	93,742
Ancillary Staff	74,661
Fuel	15,267
Other Premises Costs	3,608
Building Maintenance	1,111
Grounds Maintenance	2,017
Books and Practice Materials	24,785
Supplies and Services	7,979
Hire of Transport/Travel	6,117
Other Establishment Expenses	13,727
2007/2008 Carry Forward Underspend	18,539
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>983,835</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>972,151</b>
<b>2008/2009 Carry Over Deficit</b>	<b>11,684 (1.2%)</b>