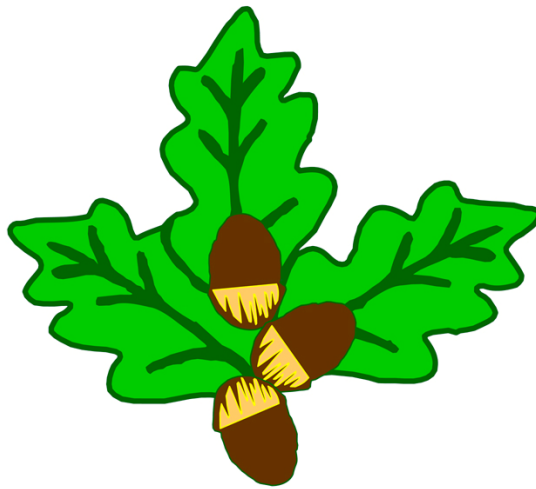


KNOCKBRED A PRIMARY SCHOOL

South Eastern Education and Library Board



ANNUAL REPORT

of
Board of Governors

2008/2009

KNOCKBREDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

This report includes:-

- Information about the Board of *Governors*
- A summary of the school year 2008/2009
- Information about the curriculum
- Information about school and community links
- Information about educational provision
- Information about the achievement of pupils
- Information about the financial position of the school
- A summary of other school accounts
- Child protection policy



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PERIOD OF OFFICE 2005 - 2009

(Reconstitution delayed until 2009/10 school year)

The Board of *Governors* is made up of 10 members - 4 transferor representatives, 2 South Eastern & Education Library Board (S.E.E.L.B.) representatives, 2 parent representatives, 1 teacher representative and the school principal, a non-voting member who acts as Secretary.

Transferors' Representatives: Archdeacon Patterson (Chairman)
Mr A Moore (Vice Chairman)
Mrs E McKeeman
Mr I Gibson

S.E.E.L.B. Representatives: Mr B Porter
Cllr. W Ward

Parents' Representatives: Mr S Sharma
Mrs A Latimer

Teachers' Representative: Mrs L McCormick

The school is indebted to the *Governors* who willingly give of their time to ensure that the administration of Knockbreda proceeds smoothly and effectively.

During the year the *Governors* met regularly to deal with a wide range of issues, which included staff appointments, school policy matters, School Development Planning, admission policies, school maintenance, Health and safety issues, security matters, teachers' pay awards and also to discuss and monitor the school's finances

The *Governors* wish to record formally their appreciation of the work carried out by the teaching and non-teaching staff of the school. The *Governors* appreciate the dedication and expertise of the staff who each play their part in helping to make Knockbreda a successful school. Children and staff give of their best to achieve success in all aspects of school life.

KNOCKBREDA PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF

TEACHING STAFF

Mrs P McKenna**	Acting Principal
Mrs L McKnight	Primary 1
Mrs S Gamble	Primary 2/3
Mrs L McCormick	Primary 4
Miss C Briggs	Primary 5
Mr C Bell	Primary 6
Mrs E Patterson	Primary 7



LEARNING CENTRES

Mrs G A Murphy*	Primary 6-7 Acting Vice-Principal
Mrs P Hart	Primary 3-5

CLASSROOM & GENERAL ASSISTANTS

Mrs J Blemings	Mrs M Davey	Mrs I Lowry	Mrs R Graham
Mrs S McCoy	Mrs J McKee	Miss C McNeill	Mrs M O'Hara
Mrs L Pollock	Mrs J Smith	Mrs M Tweedie	Mrs L Thompson
Mrs C Turner			

SECRETARY

Mrs S Taggart

SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS

Mrs I Lowry Mrs J Blemings

ANCILLARY STAFF

Mr S Scott Caretaker
Mrs S Darragh
Mrs J Tumilson

CANTEEN STAFF

Mrs R Dickson
Mrs J O'Neill



*Designated Teacher for Child Protection

**Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

School could not function effectively without the help of Mrs Murphy (SENCO), Mrs Taggart (Secretary), Mr Scott (Caretaker), Mrs Darragh and Mrs Tumilson (Ancillary Staff) and Mrs Lowry and Mrs Blemings (Luncheon Supervisory Staff). Their contribution is very much appreciated by staff and governors.

SCHOOL YEAR 2008 - 2009

Mrs Young retired after sixteen years teaching P.6 initially and later P.2, at Knockbreda. Mrs Young contributed to school life in many ways most notably through her commitment as P.E. co-ordinator. Mrs Young always ensured the smooth organisation of after school sports activities, swimming lessons and of course our annual Sports Day. She also helped out with our thriving Scripture Union club and was always willing to help out in any school events. We wish Mrs Young a long and happy retirement.

This year we were pleased to welcome Mrs Gamble to the Knockbreda team. Mrs Gamble will be teaching our P.2/3 class and brings with her a sense of enthusiasm and commitment. We trust she will enjoy her time at Knockbreda.

During the year children from Knockbreda achieved successes in many areas:



The Christmas Choir sang at Castle Court and Conswater shopping centres and helped raise over £600 for Barnardos and The Clic Sargent. The Choir was also invited to entertain the residents of Cregagh Nursing Home. This was a great opportunity to establish links within our local community and all the elderly people thoroughly enjoyed the children's performance



Every child in school participated in our Christmas Carol Service which was held in school. Pupils from P.1 - P.4 entertained the audience with an entertaining performance of 'It's a Party' and P.5 - P.7 pupils provided a range of dramatic and musical performances and the school band also performed. Well done to all staff and pupils who worked extremely hard to prepare for this successful event.



Most classes took responsibility for a whole school assembly and throughout the year we enjoyed a great range of performances and diversity in talent. All classes also participated in our Harvest and Easter celebrations with donations of food made to Help the Aged following our Harvest Assembly.

At Knockbreda we encourage our pupils to think of others and through various fundraising activities pupils and staff at Knockbreda raised funds to support the following charities:

Make a Wish Foundation	£650.00	Jeans for Genes	£197.00
Red Nose Day	£413.00	Barnardos	£600.00
Clarity (RNIB)	£40.00	Children in Need	£315.00



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance for the year was 94.7%. Whilst this is a good percentage it is a slight decrease from last year and could be higher if a small number of pupils were to improve their attendance record.



CURRICULUM

Curriculum development this year continued to focus on the Revised N.I. Curriculum. Following completion of training the P.1, P.2, P.5 and P.6 teachers implemented the Revised Curriculum in their classrooms. This year P.3, P.4 and P.7 teachers will receive training for the Revised Curriculum, final training is to be completed in October 2009.

All staff attended a conference on 'Developing Thinking Skills in the Classroom' presented by Ian Gilbert from Independent Thinking. Various ideas presented at this conference have been implemented and will continue to be developed in all classrooms.

As school curriculum development has been heavily focussed on literacy and assessment for learning for a number of years it has been agreed to review the teaching and learning associated with mathematics throughout the school, with particular focus on Revised Curriculum strategies. In order to identify areas for development a whole school mathematics audit will be carried out this year.

As ICT is an integral part of the Revised Curriculum the focus in this area is using ICT across the curriculum. Staff will continue to develop the use of ICT across the curriculum in the classroom, making use of a variety of resources available online and on the C2K managed network system.



Music continues to play an important role in Knockbreda. Tutors from S.E.E.L.B. provided pupils with opportunities to play woodwind and brass instruments. Throughout the year these pupils have the opportunity to perform for their family and peers at various events. Those children entered for Associated Board Music examinations all passed comfortably. Recorder was taught to all children from Primary 4 to Primary 7. Mrs McCormick, Miss Briggs and Mrs Patterson organised weekly choir practices, which prepared the children for concerts, special assemblies and other school events.



At Knockbreda the curriculum is designed to stimulate children's thinking and encourage effective learning. Children with special educational needs are given additional help by class teachers and, when necessary, advice is sought from outside agencies including educational psychologists, speech and language teachers etc. Thus the needs of all children are assessed and addressed. Teachers also meet regularly with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) to discuss any concerns. This year school continued to fund support for an in-school reading programme. Many children benefited from this extra provision.



CHILD PROTECTION

Knockbreda's Child Protection policy is available to view on our school website, www.knockbredps.co.uk, or available in paper copy upon request from the school. Child Protection procedures continue to be implemented fully and criminal background checks are carried out on all newly appointed staff and volunteers. Staff received updated Child Protection training and the Child Protection policy has been updated to reflect this.



CROSS COMMUNITY CONTACT SCHEME



Children from Primary 5, 6 and 7 continued to meet with children from St. Mary's Primary school, Aughlisnafin in Castlewellan. Regular educational visits were arranged to a wide variety of venues so that children could continue to make and develop relationships with children from a different cultural background.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational visits form an integral part of the curriculum as they enhance and extend the learning which takes place in school. Children from P.1 to P.7 enjoyed a wide range of visits including The Ark Open Farm, Crawfordsburn Country Park, The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum,



Castle Ward, Mountstewart, Exploris, W5, Queen's Film Theatre and other equally interesting venues. Primary 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed residential trips to Killyleagh Outdoor Education centre where they participated in a range of outdoor activities including orienteering, canoeing and a river walk to name a few. Primary 7 children visited Aviemore in May. Children were commended for their behaviour on a number

of occasions by local residents. Our children were always well behaved and well mannered as well as enthusiastic in all they did, a credit to their school and to their parents. Mrs McKenna, Mrs Patterson and Mrs Lowry are to be congratulated for making the visit such a successful one.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Mrs Hart is responsible for the school environment and, along with her gardening club and help from Mr Scott, continued to keep the school grounds in good condition. They also maintain our wildlife garden, providing an attractive, quiet area for children to enjoy. Seasonal plants have been added in the wildlife garden and the pots around the school grounds. There was plenty of recycling and eco-awareness carried out. Our thanks are due again to Mrs Hart for her enthusiasm and hard work.



LEARNING CENTRES

Mrs Murphy and Mrs Hart continue to develop an integrated approach to education in the Learning Centres. Children in both classes took part in a number of educational visits. The children experience a wide curriculum which helps develop literacy and numeracy skills and raise their self-esteem. The pupils from the learning centres integrated into the mainstream classes for Art, Music and P.E. and participated fully in school performances and special events. 100% of pupils from the Senior Learning Centre transferred to mainstream post primary education.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Football was once again a very popular activity for boys and girls. Thank you to Mr Bell who worked hard to develop children's skills and, while no trophies were won, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the time spent playing football and in competition with other schools.



Our hockey players also enjoyed a busy year. The boys and girls were enthusiastic and enjoyed participating in weekly practice sessions and matches. Mrs McKnight continued in the role of hockey coach and her dedication continues to ensure that hockey flourishes at Knockbreda.

This year we also provided coaching in football and tag rugby during Friday Clubs. Short tennis coaching was available as another after school activity. All pupils who participated in these activities benefited greatly from their experiences. A team representing the school also attended the annual athletics event at Mary Peter's Track. Our P.7 pupils also attended the Northern Ireland Athletics Association event held at Strathearn School and won a trophy for coming second.



Clubs afternoon offered a wide range of activities for pupils from Primary 4 - 7. P.4 pupils took part in craft and sport activities. For the P.5 -7 pupils choices included computers, drama, animal club, tag rugby, gardening and clay modelling to name a few. The children really enjoyed the weekly interest clubs and benefited greatly from the opportunity to participate in new experiences.

Scripture Union was replaced with KEE Club (Knockbreda eight to eleven). Mrs McCormick, Mrs Gamble and Miss Briggs provided the children with a variety of fun activities throughout the year and there was always a nice snack available!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association raised a fantastic £6000.00 for school funds this year. Mrs McCoy and her committee organised numerous events for both children and parents. A bag packing day at Sainsburys raised £1000.00! A magician entertained the younger pupils at Christmas while the older pupils enjoyed a disco. The Christmas and Spring fairs were, as ever, well supported with lots of activities for everyone. The table quiz for parents in February was again very successful with great excitement at the tie break finish! The Beetle Drive and Valentine disco were also most enjoyable events. The end of term barbecue provided everyone with a tasty meal and a chance to socialise while the children enjoyed the disco entertainment.

We are indebted to the Parents' Association for their continued hard work and commitment to the school.



TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



Mainstream Pupils transferring to Post-Primary School - September 2009

School	No of Pupils
Ashfield Girls' High School	1
Grosvenor Grammar School	1
Hunterhouse College	1
Knockbreda High School	2
Lagan College	1
Methodist College Belfast	3
Royal Belfast Academical Institution	1
Saintfield High School	2
Strathearn School	1
Victoria College	1
Wellington College	4
Total	18

Learning Centre Pupils Transferring to Post-Primary Schools - September 2009

School	No of Pupils
Ashfield Boys' High School	1
Dundonald High School	2
Lagan College	1
Knockbreda High School	1
Nendrum College	1
Orangefield High School	1
Total	7

ASSESSMENT



Assessment is an integral part of the teaching at Knockbreda. Work is continually assessed in school and records of pupil progress and achievements are carefully maintained. Reports are regularly sent to parents and parents meet each year with their child's teacher to discuss his/her progress.

Pupils are formally assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Results of these tests for the 2006/2007 school year indicate that pupils at Knockbreda perform at a level considerably higher than the Northern Ireland average. These are excellent results and reflect the good work which takes place in school every day. The results obtained in the mainstream are as follows:

Primary 4 - Knockbreda Primary School

	W	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
ENGLISH		12%	31%	57%		
MATHS		6%	25%	69%		

Primary 4 –Northern Ireland

	W	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
ENGLISH	0.49%	5.54%	53.48%	41.49%		
MATHS	0.53%	4.82%	47.15%	47.5%		

Primary 7 – Knockbreda Primary School

	W	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
ENGLISH				22%	28%	50%
MATHS				11%	22%	67%

Primary 7 – Northern Ireland

	W	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
ENGLISH	0.07%	0.37%	2.70%	17.67%	50.41%	28.78%
MATHS	0.08%	0.38%	2.48%	16.62%	39.14%	41.31%



Primary 7 pupils participated in CCEA's Information Technology Accreditation Scheme. Children completed a series of tasks as part of an ICT assessment process. Their work was then assigned a level from 1 to 5. Results of the ICT assessment are given below. These results are excellent and indicate the continued progress made by staff and pupils in the area of ICT.

2006/2007	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6
IT School Summary P7 Mainstream Class	0%	0%	0%	22%	78%	0%
IT Northern Ireland Summary	0.06%	0.16%	1.72%	36.04%	56.1%	1.02%