

What is the School Development Plan?

The School Development Plan (SDP) is a strategic plan for improvement. The SDP contains the long-term priorities and ambitions, which the school wishes to work towards, and also short-term actions, which will ensure that the long term priorities are achieved. This academic year (24/25) we will be developing our plan for 2025-2027.

School Leadership

- The Board of Governors met regularly throughout the year and an AGM was held in March
- School Policies were ratified by Governors and shared with Staff and Parents/Guardians on the school website.
- Miss M Bakewell was appointed permanent Primary 2-4 Teacher.
- Staff attended various courses and training.

Parent Comments

Taken from Parent Surveys

- Of the forms returned:
 - 86% of parents strongly agreed in all aspects of the questions.
 - 100% of parents agreed/strongly agreed in all aspects of the questionnaire.

Rathlin Values

We introduced the RATHLIN values based on our gospel values and Catholic ethos of the school. Resilience, Attitude, Teamwork, Helpfulness, Laughter, Independence and Nurturing.

School Community

Communication

Parents/Guardians were kept updated with school events via the new school monthly newsletter, the school website, new social media 'x/twitter' and our Whats App group.

Parents

Parents/Guardians attended parents' meetings in October (100% attendance)

We held a workshop this year on Remote Learning.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA were formally set up and are now part of a nationwide network with 'Parent Kind'.

Community Engagement

The school has been involved in the following community based initiatives this year:

- Future Island Project- Architects of Change
- RDCA- Maritime Festival etc.
- LIFERaft- links with schools on Isles of Scilly
- Tuesday Club-
- Glór na Maoile'- Irish speaking organisation in N.Antrim.
- Ballycastle Credit Union- Art competition, Easter give-away.
- Organ Donation- live loudly, donate proudly.
- Trocáire- Easter Eggs raffled and money donated

External Agencies

A close link continued with external agencies such as; Literacy support, CCMS, EA, DE.

School Events

Parents/family were invited to the following school events; Christmas Concert, Sports' Day, our Annual Prize-giving Assembly, 'Be Proud' Afternoon.

Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys were used to seek the opinions of parents and carers on school matters including Remote Learning and homework. There is a 'School Improvement' suggestion box included in every monthly newsletter.

School Links

Links were developed with schools on the mainland.

Rewards

We introduced the golden tie and a new weekly certificate to celebrate our pupils' successes based on the Rathlin values.

St. Mary's Primary School



School Development Plan Parent Information 2024/2025

What did we do last year?
A quick guide to some of the things achieved during the last school year (2023/2024)

Child Centered Provision

School Policies: School policies were updated in accordance with the School Policy Record and uploaded to the school website.

Attendance: We continued to implement our Attendance Policy.

Anti-Bullying: The school continued to implement our Anti-Bullying Policy. As a school we celebrated 'Anti-Bullying Week' with activities such as; 'Odd Sock Day'.

Online Safety:

As well as taking part in online safety day (06/02/24), this is now an integral part of our new ICT Scheme of Work (SOW).

Pupil Voice:

- Pupil questionnaires as part of Fresh Little Minds (FLM) project.
- End of Year questionnaires completed with pupils
- PLP section on pupil voice and this was completed with pupils in mid-year reviews in February 2024.

School Trips/Visit to school:

- Liferaft Visits to school- October 2023, April 2024
- Liz Weir (Author Visit)- October 2023
- Belfast wren Boys Visit- November 2023
- Trip to Pantomime- December 2023
- Visit to RSPB- March 2024
- Visit from Paddy Donnelly (Author)- March 2024
- Future Island Project- April-May 2024
- Visit from W5- April 2024
- Visit to W5- June 2024
- Future island trip with Armoy Primary and BIPS to Cushendun.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

-The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated.

-All Staff received refresher Child Protection training from Mr.McGuigan (Designated Teacher)

-Miss M.Bakewell was appointed as the Deputy Designated Teacher.

-Secure record keeping continued for Child Protection and Safeguarding Concerns.

-Child-Friendly Posters of the Safeguarding Team were updated accordingly and displayed in both classrooms.

-All volunteers and external tutors were vetted through Access NI.

- We took part in NSPCC assembly- January 2024.



Pastoral Care

Policies: All Pastoral Care Policies were updated as required. Evidence: school website.

Fresh Little Minds: We continued the whole school Program from Fresh Little Minds for P2-P7. Evidence: FLM scrapbooks

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

We had several wellbeing days throughout the year- September, November, January, April and June.

Evidence: school website.

Teaching & Learning

Assessment

The schools' assessment data continued to be utilised to monitor pupil progress and intervention were put in place with Mrs. Wisner-Clarke.

Evidence: PLP's

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning initiative was launched in April 2024 and pupils had planned lessons dedicated to outdoor themes throughout the summer term.

Evidence: Pupil's Nature Journals/weekly plans.

Numeracy

In numeracy the focus for the year was the implementation of more reasoning and problem-solving activities in lessons. This can be evidenced in pupils' books and staff CPD.

Literacy

In literacy the focus was the consolidation of the writing scheme of work implemented in 22/23.

Evidence in pupils' books and classroom writing displays.

ICT

A new ICT scheme of work is up and running. Pupils are becoming more competent in the use of ICT. KS2 pupils used MICROBITS as part of their coding curriculum.

Evidence: individual TEAMs accounts.

WAU

Plans updated and now in use across both classes. Evidenced in pupils' books and long-term plans on website.

Languages

Pupils in P4-P7 were given weekly lessons in Irish. The school has now established a link with 'Glór na Maoile' in Ballycastle. Pupils in P2-P4 have also completed some starter lessons. Evidence in pupils' books/assemblies.

