

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 (25/26) we are in the second year of a three-year cycle.

School Leadership

- The Board of Governors met regularly throughout the year and an AGM was held.
- School Policies were ratified by Governors and shared with Staff and Parents/Guardians on the school website.
- Governing body reconstituted- names of all members, including the new members are on the school website.
- Staff attended various courses and training.

Parent Comments

Taken from Parent Surveys

- Of the forms returned: 100% of parental responses indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with all aspects of the survey.

Rathlin Values

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

School Community

200 Years

Last year we had a series of events that marked the 200th anniversary of a school on our site.

Communication

Facebook page launched in September 2025 and updated regularly.

Website- updated regularly.

Twitter- maintained and updated on a regular basis.

Monthly Newsletters distributed

Parents

Parents meetings

Be proud day.

Grandparents' day

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

- Officially launched in 24/25 and have met to ratify their constitution.

Community Engagement

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

- Tuesday Club re-established links and had our first event in June 2025 in the Branston Centre.

- Dairy Council NI

- Forest School NI

- Oral History group for 200th anniversary book sponsored by Power NI.

- RSPB- including first visitors of the season.

- Cumann Na Bunscoil GAA- pupils attended events at the school and on the mainland

-Future Island-Island Project- 200th anniversary

-RDCA- Maritime Festival etc.

-LIFERaft-

-Glór na Maoile'- Irish speaking organisation in N.Antrim.

-Trocaire- Easter Eggs raffled and money donated

External Agencies

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

- CCMS representatives visited the school in March 25.

School Events

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

Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys were used to seek the opinions of parents. There is a 'School Improvement' suggestion box included in every monthly newsletter.

Shared education

In the year 24/25, we have established a concrete link for SE.

St. Mary's Primary School



School Development Plan

Parent Information 2025/2026

What did we do last year?
A quick guide to some of the things achieved during the last school year (2024/2025)

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 with 100% monthly certificates awarded.

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 (11/02/25), this is now an integral part of our ICT Scheme of Work (SOW).

Pupil Voice:

- Assemblies led and pupils given the opportunity to discuss what is going well and what they'd like differently in school. This was then sent to parents and put on the school website.
- Pupil questionnaires as part of Fresh Little Minds (FLM) project.

- PLP section on pupil voice and this was completed with pupils in mid-year reviews.

School Trips/Visit to school:

- Visit to the Boathouse Oct '24
- Visit to the new houses on the Island Sep '24
- CnaB Quiz- Jan '25
- CnaB KS1 skills day- Feb '25
- CnaB KS2 skills day- Feb '25
- RSPB center- April '25
- Boat trip around the island- May '25
- Bushmills – March '25
- Forest school Clondeboyne- April '25
- End of Year trip to Jungle NI – June 25
- Dairy Council Visit- June '25
- Regular visits from LIFEraft and Future Island-island teams.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

-The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated.

-All Staff received refresher Child Protection training from Mr.McGuigan

-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.

- NSPCC assembly



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 P3–P7. Evidence: FLM scrapbooks

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

- We had several wellbeing days throughout the year- September, January and April. Evidence: school website.

- Took part in 'Children's Mental Health Week' Feb 2025

Teaching & Learning

Assessment

Pupils sat Progress in English (PIE) and Progress in Maths (PIM) tests in May 2025. The schools' assessment data continued to be utilised to monitor pupil progress and interventions were put in place with Mrs. Wisener-Clarke. Evidence: PLP's

Outdoor Learning- Forest Schools

The school launched its forest school program with a trip to Clondeboyne forest park and a visit from the Forest School team. This will be a key aspect of the SDP for 25/26.

Numeracy

In numeracy the focus for the year was developing Mental Maths. Staff took part in a series of CPD opportunities with Robert Thompson at the EA. Awards presented throughout the year for initiatives such as 'Timestables Rockstars.'

Literacy

In literacy the focus was speaking and listening and pupils were given more opportunities for public speaking through drama, school masses etc.

ICT

We continued to implement the new scheme of work and have applied for funding for new iPads.

WAU

Pupils continued to follow the WAU curriculum which aligns to the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Languages

The school achieved accreditation for the teaching of Irish in English medium schools through the *Scoil Spreagtha* initiative.

PE

A specialist coach came to school to work on fundamentals for hurling/camogie. Opportunities for dance and gymnastics were provided through the curriculum.

Religion

Pupils followed the 'Grow in Love' scheme of work. We took part in *Catholic Schools' Week* and one pupil received the sacrament of First Holy Communion and one received the sacrament of Confirmation in 24/25. Bishop Alan McGuckian celebrated Confirmation on the Island.

