



BOARD OF GOVERNOR ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

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Vision and Values

Vision

At Crawfordsburn Primary School we believe in the importance of learning to care for others, ourselves and the world around us. When we feel cared for, we feel safe and ready to take risks in our learning and are more prepared to creatively approach subjects across the curriculum. Through celebrating success and providing opportunities to be actively involved in school life, we develop our children's confidence and prepare them to positively contribute to the world they live in as caring, creative and confident individuals.

Values

Caring

At Crawfordsburn Primary School we have a strong family ethos. We care deeply about all members of our school and local community. Children are taught to care for themselves, others and the world around them in a friendly, nurturing and encouraging environment.

Creative

We celebrate and develop creativity within our school on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to be independent problem-solvers, and we actively promote the development of creativity through all areas of the curriculum. We recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of pupils, from both inside and outside the classroom.

Confident

Through feeling and celebrating success in learning, our children develop their confidence and self-esteem. We provide relevant, forward-looking learning opportunities and encourage our pupils to be actively involved in school life through many roles that enable them to share their voice. Our pupils are encouraged to have high aspirations and are given opportunities to develop skills that they will carry with them into later life.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

As yet another successful year comes to a close for CPS, Mr Ferguson has settled well into school life after a full year at the helm and has been a leading light in driving the new school building development forward.

The Senior Leadership Team continue to work well together and have gone from strength to strength under Mr Ferguson's leadership. Through the CPS Parent Teacher Association's tireless dedication, they continue to organise and fundraise through fun events for our children and the local community.

The new school building is gathering speed at pace. From behind the hoardings we can now see the outline of the new building emerge; the roof is nearly finished and the internal fit out will start in the very near future when the window and door installation is completed. Unfortunately, the original completion date has slipped, and handover will now most likely be early 2027. Whilst this is a little disappointing and frustrating, the new school is on track to be absolutely fabulous and well worth the wait.

Our school numbers continue to remain strong and applications for P1 are very encouraging for the coming year particularly in the era of a falling school age population. The development of the new school will definitely be a bonus for CPS and the wider community.

The Board of Governors continue to meet regularly to discuss relevant and current issues and work with Mr Ferguson and the SLT to make CPS the best academic and social environment it can be for the staff and student body. I hope that CPS will continue to go from strength to strength for many years to come.

Mr Kyle

Chair of the Board of Governors

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2024-2028

The Board of Governors was reconstituted during the 2024-25 academic year. Below is a list of the current governors of Crawfordsburn Primary School.

Name	Representative	Role
Jonathan Kyle	Transferor	Chairperson Admissions, Staffing/Recruitment, Finance, Health and Safety and Discipline and Grievance. WAU, PBL, ABL and RE Link Governor.
Cliff Burns	Transferor	Vice-Chairperson Staffing/Recruitment, Finance and Appeals and Complaints. SEN and PRSD Link Governor.
Blanche Gallaher	Transferor	Admissions, Curriculum and Discipline and Grievance. Child Protection and Literacy Link Governor.
Peter Hamill	Transferor	Staffing/Recruitment, Curriculum and Finance.
David Stanley	EA	Staffing/Recruitment and Appeals and Complaints. The Arts, ICT and PRSD Link Governor. Wellbeing Link Governor.
Nikolai Koplewsky	EA	Admissions and Appeals and Complaints. Community and Pupil Voice Link Governor.
Emma McKeown	Parent	Curriculum and Finance. Numeracy Link Governor.
Philip Johnston	Parent	Staffing/Recruitment, Appeals and Complaints and Health and Safety. Wellbeing Link Governor.
Pamela Crawford	Teacher	Staffing/Recruitment
Adam Ferguson	Principal	Secretary

The Role of School Governors

Every school is managed by a Board of Governors, a body of volunteers who play an extremely important role in supporting schools by working with the principal, staff, parents, and pupils to ensure that high-quality education is delivered in a positive learning environment. The Board of Governors has members with different skills, knowledge and experience. The business of the school is progressed by the whole Board of Governors working together in the best interests of the children within their school.

The Board of Governors:

- sets the school's plans and policies
- employs the school staff
- manages how the school spends budget

CLASS ORGANISATION AND STAFFING – 2025/26

Class	Teacher	Support Staff
P1	Mrs Meharg	Mrs Liggett Mrs Armstrong
P2	Mrs Warke	Miss Sweeney
P3	Mrs Montgomery (M,T,Th and F) Mrs Todd (W)	Miss Monaghan
P4	Mrs Barr (T-Fri) Mrs Jackson (M)	Mrs Noble Ms Herd Mrs McCord
P5	Miss White	Miss Coulter
P6	Mrs Vance	Ms Copley Mrs Geddes Mr McNiece
P7	Miss Twamley	Ms Henderson Mrs Erwin

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This year has marked an important milestone in the history of Crawfordsburn Primary School. Ten years after it was first announced that we would receive a new school building, construction finally commenced. Throughout the year, we have watched with anticipation as the building has taken shape, while significant work has also been undertaken to prepare for this exciting transition. During the next academic year, we will make the physical move into our new school and see the final stages of the project completed.

As I reflect on the 2025-26 academic year, my first full year as Principal of Crawfordsburn Primary School, there are many highlights to celebrate. During the first term, our choir represented the school superbly within the local community, performing at a range of events including Crawfordsburn Spar, Ailsa Lodge Care Home, Bloomfield Shopping Centre and the Helen's Bay Christmas Tree Light Switch-On. In the second term, they joined thousands of other primary school pupils at the SSE Arena as part of Peace Proms. The P1-P3 Nativity and P4-P7 Carol Services were also wonderful occasions, bringing our school community together to celebrate the festive season.

As part of our School Development Plan priorities, we consulted extensively with school stakeholders throughout the year to develop a new three-year School Development Plan. We also sought to strengthen our presence within the local community. I joined the BayBurn Community Association committee and our P7 pupils participated in regular beach cleans in Crawfordsburn and Helen's Bay. They later presented their findings at the Association's AGM in Helen's Bay Golf Club. Reading was a key curricular focus this year and we were delighted to see an increase in the number of pupils reading at or above their expected age level. This is an achievement of which our pupils, parents and staff should be very proud. We were also pleased to partner with the Crawfordsburn Inn to celebrate our reading award winners during the final weeks of term.

Many pupils represented the school throughout the year at a wide range of sporting events, including football, hockey, cross-country and athletics competitions. Our hockey teams enjoyed particular success, with both the boys' and girls' teams reaching the quarter-finals of the regional qualifiers. This was followed by our mixed team winning the Ards and North Down Borough Council Cup. For the first time, Sports Day was held at Bangor Sportsplex due to the ongoing building work on our school site. The day was a great success, with additional sporting activities enhancing the experience for all involved.

Our pupils also benefited from a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities. Within school, they participated in clubs covering sport, computing and choir, while others enjoyed learning musical instruments through guitar, piano and violin tuition. Once again, our thriving House System was a particular strength, with the final term especially filled with enjoyable and engaging house events.

Two highlights of the final term were the P6 residential visit to Crawfordsburn Scout Centre and the P7 residential trip to Edinburgh. Both experiences were packed with exciting activities and provided opportunities for pupils to build confidence, develop friendships and create lasting memories. I had the pleasure of joining both year groups for part of their residential experiences and thoroughly enjoyed seeing their enthusiasm and enjoyment firsthand.

Our PTA continued to play an invaluable role throughout the year, raising significant funds through events including the Beetle Drive, Valentine's Disco, Belfast City Marathon Relay and Summer Fair. The Summer Fair, held at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre, was a particular highlight. Great weather and outstanding community support helped make it a tremendous success. I would like to thank every member of the PTA and all volunteers who contributed their time and effort throughout the year.

In June, we said goodbye to our P7 pupils as they transferred to eight different post-primary schools. We also officially said goodbye to Mrs Angela Skarmoutsos. Mrs Skarmoutsos dedicated more than twenty years to Crawfordsburn Primary School, teaching across all key stages, serving as a governor and enriching school life through musical productions, nativities, carol services and countless other contributions. We thank her for her commitment, dedication and the positive impact she has had on our pupils.

The successes of this year are a testament to the dedication, professionalism and hard work of our staff, who continually go above and beyond to provide the very best opportunities for our children. As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. The coming year will bring new opportunities, new experiences and most significantly, the chance to take our first steps together into our new school building.

Mr Ferguson

Principal

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

If there is a concern about a child's welfare the relevant contact people are –

- 1) Mrs Vance – Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- 2) Mrs Meharg – Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- 3) Mrs Montgomery – Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

The school Safeguarding Team meets on an annual basis and as otherwise required. As well as this, our Designated Teacher for Child Protection presents a report at every Board of Governor meeting. All staff complete updated Child Protection training every August.

The school Safeguarding Team consists of –

Mr J Kyle – Chair of Board of Governors

Mrs Vance – Designated Governor for Child Protection

Mrs Meharg – Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Gallaher – Designated Governor for Child Protection

Mr A Ferguson – Principal

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-26 SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Strategic Intent	Outcomes
To create a School Development Plan that is informed by the context of the school and effective stakeholder engagement.	The school has a new 3-year School Development Plan in place following wide stakeholder consultation that involved staff workshops, pupil focus groups and surveys of pupils, parents and staff.
By monitoring, targeting and promoting reading through the effective use of Accelerated Reader, 80%+ of all AR reading targets will be met and there will be a reduction in the percentage of pupils who are reading at a level below their actual age.	- Pupil reading is now monitored, targeted and promoted through Accelerated Reader. 73% of reading targets were met in 2025-26 with P3/4 having the highest percentage of targets met (88%). - The percentage of pupils reading in line with their actual age or higher rose from 61% in September to 72% in April. - The percentage of pupils reading at a level below their actual age fell from 39% in September to 28% in April. 1 in 2 pupils saw their reading age increase by over 1 year during the academic year. - All classroom assistants completed training in the Reading Partnership reading support programme.
Teachers and pupils will be creative in their approach to learning and teaching in subjects across the curriculum.	- Creativity was promoted across the curriculum. - Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures were reestablished. - The Learning and Teaching Policy was updated. - All Middle Leaders (Literacy, Numeracy and ICT) completed training alongside other local schools.
The Emotional Health and Well-Being of pupils and staff will be developed through further embedding our school vision to create an ethos of showing care within the school community.	- All staff completed 'Promoting Emotional Health and Well-Being' training. - All staff completed ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training. - The Mood Tracker app was rolled out to support pupil well-being. - All classes created Class Charters linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. - PDMU/Preventative Curriculum was audited.
Other Projects/Initiatives	- Continued links with BayBurn Community Association- Beach Cleans, performing at Helen's Bay Light Switch On and pupils presenting at the AGM. - Further community links- our school choir sang at Crawfordsburn Spar, Bloomfields Shopping Centre and Ailsa Lodge Care Home. They also participated in Peace Proms at the SSE Arena. - Food provision was introduced at Sunrise Club (Breakfast Club). - YMCA after-school childcare provision was established. - All P3-7 completed the GL Spelling test in September and June to give us a better understanding of their performance in spelling.

END OF YEAR STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT 2025-26

Year Group	CAT4 Verbal Mean	PTE Mean	CAT4 Quantitative Mean	PTM Mean	Overall Interpretation
P3	97.9	105.1	105.6	115.1	Literacy is above verbal indicators; numeracy is well above quantitative indicators.
P4	101.9	110.1	107.2	107.2	Literacy is above verbal indicators; numeracy is exactly in line with quantitative indicators.
P5	101.5	109.3	105.7	106.1	Literacy is well above verbal indicators; numeracy is broadly in line with quantitative indicators.
P6	105.5	106.1	108.2	108.8	Literacy and numeracy are broadly in line with cognitive indicators.
P7	99.6	103.1	100.1	107.8	Literacy is slightly above verbal indicators; numeracy is notably above quantitative indicators.

SEN ACCESSIBILITY ARRANGEMENTS

Crawfordsburn Primary School seeks to promote the inclusion of pupils with Special Educational Needs &/or Disabilities in all aspects of school life. This includes, where possible, eliminating any barriers that pupils may have in accessing the curriculum and the physical school environment.

Current Status/Reasonable Adjustments

At present pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities have equal access to all areas of the school building. This is reviewed on an annual basis and contact is made to the EA as required. Should a child apply to the school with special educational needs or a disability they will be treated fairly. A risk assessment will be undertaken, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enable that child to learn alongside his/her peers.

Physical Environment

All entrances and exits to the different buildings within school are wheelchair accessible. Additional reasonable adjustments that may be taken may include:

- Lighting and paint schemes to help visually impaired children.
- Lifts and ramps to help physically impaired children.
- Carpeting and acoustic tiling of classrooms to help hearing impaired pupils or appropriate amplification equipment.

The following highlights some of the other ways in which the school has made further adjustments to ensure that all children and staff with specific needs were able to fully participate in all aspects of school life during recent years:

- Dyslexia friendly resources were purchased for use within classrooms.
- Online Epilepsy training was completed by all staff.

ATTENDANCE

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Whole-School Attendance	94.85%	94.4%	95.14%
NI Primary School National Average	93%	93.5%	93.5%
Unauthorised Absences	1.92%	1.9%	2.8%

In 2025-26, the class averages for attendance ranged from 93.62% to 96.45%.

Whole school attendance remains above the national average and is in line with the DENI target of 95%.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025/26

EA DELEGATED BUDGET FIGURES

Delegated Budget Share	£780,150
Carry forward	-£254,212
Total Available	£525,938
Total Expenditure	£900,673
Budget End Position/ 2026-27 Starting Position	-£374,735

Summary of School General Funds Account for the period 1 April 2025- 31st March 2026

Opening Balance	£51,725.86
Deposited	£76,912.31
Withdrawn	£87,959.27
Closing Balance	£40,678.90

Source and Application of Additional Funds Received (Academic Year 2025-26)

Income Source	Application of Funds
PTA £1396.18	£1396.18 - Books, pupil rewards and IT Equipment
Strangford College £100	£100 - Travel grant used to subsidise cost of Educational Visit
War Memorial Museum £100	£100 - Travel grant used to subsidise cost of Educational Visit
School Fund £2742	£2742- Pupil Resources/Equipment, Sporting-related activities and Educational Experiences

COMMUNITY LINKS

We once again continued our partnership with the BayBurn Community Association, with our P7s participating in beach cleans/marine surveys on the beaches of Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn. Our P7s presented their findings at the BayBurn Community Association AGM and Mr Ferguson presented information in relation to our new school building. Our school choir was visible in the school community singing at the local Spar at Christmas, the Helen's Bay Christmas Tree Light-Switch On and Ailsa Lodge Care Home. Our choir also participated at Peace Proms at the SSE Arena. The school will continue to look at how we can build our community links and presence in the local community in the years ahead.

TO PASTURES NEW

24 pupils finished with us in P7 in June 2026 and have transferred to post-primary education. We continue to support any pupils who choose to complete the SEAG assessment. In September 2026, our pupils will be transferring to eight different post primary schools. 58% of our pupils will be transferring to a grammar school.

In September 2026 we will have pupils transferring to:

Bangor Academy
Bangor Grammar School
Glastry College
Glenlola Collegiate
Rockport School
St. Columbanus' College
Strathearn School
Sullivan Upper School