

Child Centred Provision

School Policies School policies were updated in accordance with the School Policy Record.

Risk Assessments Whole-school detailed risk assessments continued to be in place ensuring the health and safety for all pupils, staff and visitors as required.

Attendance We continued to implement our Attendance Policy. Parents were notified if their child's attendance fell below 85%. Review meetings with our Education Welfare Officer were held half-termly. Our whole school attendance rate was 95.09%. This was above the national NI average rate for primary schools in 2023/2024.

Online Safety The pupils enjoyed activities as part of Internet Safety Day and we held a number of whole school assemblies themed around online safety. Digital Leaders helped promote online safety messages and participated in Adobe Express course. Our ICT co-ordinator attended initial trainer for SaferSchools.

Pupil Voice The School Councillors were elected in September 2023 and had regular meetings and projects throughout the year. There were also pupil responsibilities within the roles of Digital Leaders, Playground Buddies and Wellbeing Champions. Our Eco-Committee assisted with our Green Flag application.

Health and Wellbeing We continued to expand our school's Extra-Curricular Programme and offered a wide range of activities for all pupils. New clubs included Uplift, Coding, Construction and Nature. Our breakfast club continued to gain popularity. We revisited both old and new preventative curriculum programmes and events, continuing our journey towards the Sustrans Gold Award and maintained our Level 3 Take 5 Award-the highest accolade, for our promotion of positive health and wellbeing throughout the school. The school continued to implement our positive behaviour policies. As a school we celebrated 'Anti-Bullying Week' with activities such as; 'Odd Sock Day'. Funding and grants were utilised to improve our outdoor learning facilities and our pupils continued to be provided with many outdoor learning opportunities. Our Wellbeing Champions worked closely with all pupils to spread positive mental health and wellbeing activities and information.

Eco-Flag We were delighted to receive our Green Flag award this year. Our Eco Committee, led by Miss Cunning, worked hard throughout the year to gain green flag status.

School Trips Our pupils all enjoyed school trips throughout the year including visits to Stormont, Woodhall, Belfast Zoo, W5, Airtastic, Bowling Alley, Post Office, Larne Museum, Larne Library and local parks and places of interest. We invited Mr Hullabaloo and M and M Theatrical Productions to perform for our pupils.

A School Connected to its Local Community

Communication Parents/Guardians were kept updated with school events via the SchoolsNI app and school website. Communication also through the weekly newsletter and email.

Parent/Teacher Meetings Pastoral phone calls were offered to all parents in October 2023. Parents/Guardians were invited to attend parent/teacher consultation meetings in February 2024.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) The PTA held a number of very successful school events including Christmas Bingo, Santa visit, Halloween Disco, Easter activities and the Summer Fair, all of which raised a fantastic £5980.00 for school funds. We were able to purchase five new interactive panels and allocate money to each class for resources.

Community Events The school supported local community events and entered competitions including Larne Schools Football Tournament in association with Larne FC, Larne Schools Hurling Tournament Larne Music Festival, Larne Credit Union Quiz, Larne Schools Swimming Gala and Larne Ladies hockey tournament. Our pupils also attended many local events and used the locality for our Forest Schools project. We invited representatives from local businesses and organisations. Our school choir participated in PeaceProms 2024.

External Agencies Close links continued with external agencies including Education Welfare, Educational Psychologist, NHSCT, RISE, Behavioural Support, SEN Support and Literacy/Numeracy Support Services.

School Events Parents/Guardians were invited to school events including open evening, assemblies, Christmas plays, Sports Day, PTA events and teacher-led information sessions. Parents participated in Time to Read/Count and Stay and Play sessions.

Shared Education Links with our partnership schools continued. We also participated in twinning events through YMCA PeacePlayers, IFA Disney programme and PeaceProms 2024.

Surveys/Questionnaires We continued to seek feedback from our parents/guardians and are exploring the possibility of a parent/guardian 'focus group'.

Links with other schools Linking with our local nursery, primary and post-primary schools continued through visits and project work.

Fundraising We fundraised for NSPCC, Trocaire, The Big C Foundation, AutismNI, and we held our annual Shoebox Appeal.

St MacNissi's Primary School School Development Plan 2023-2026



This is an overview of just some of the things achieved during the 2023/2024 academic year in St MacNissi's Primary School.

Some of our priority targets for the 2024/2025 year ahead are also included.

When we devised our School Development Plan we considered a number of factors to help us prioritise the needs of the school, including results from internal tests and feedback from our pupils, parents and governors provided through questionnaires. As a school community, you have recently completed questionnaires to help us evaluate what is going well and to identify areas that need further improvement. Within school we have used the self-evaluating tools recommended by the department of Education and reflected on recommendations made by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

A School Development Plan is drawn up for a three year cycle. This year is the second year of our 2023-2026 plan.

What is our School Development Plan?

The SDP is a strategic plan for improvement. It brings together, in a clear and simple way, the school's priorities and the main measures it will take to raise standards.

Parent Comments - February 2023 SDP Consultation

'A fantastic school which focuses on the individual child.'

'Safe, happy environment.'

'Excellent staff- both teaching and non-teaching. Lovely community spirit. I feel we are very lucky to have such an excellent school in our town.'

Special Educational Needs

- * Updating of whole school Provision Map
- * Initial Personal Learning Plan training for staff
- * Continuation of the updating and embedding of SEN processes and systems within school
- * Continued professional development for our SEN classroom assistants

Safeguarding and Child Protection

- * The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated in accordance with DE/ETI directives
- * All Staff received Child Protection training from Mr C Oakes (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)
- * Governors participated in CP Training as required
- * Stringent record keeping and the secure storage of this continued for Child Protection and Safeguarding Concerns through our revised system
- * Child-friendly posters of the Safeguarding Team were updated and displayed around the school
- * Operation Encompass continued, providing important safeguarding and child protection information to the safeguarding team
- * All volunteers were vetted through Access NI

Pastoral Care

- * Pastoral Care Policies were reviewed and updated according to a review timetable
- * Children's Mental Health Week and Anti-Bullying Week were celebrated
- * Wellbeing Champions were elected in September 2023
- * Fire drills were conducted termly. All fire equipment and lighting was recently tested and the boiler serviced. PAT testing is ongoing. Our Building Supervisor continues to update his training record and completes a weekly checklist of testing around the school building
- * We fully embraced the Take 5 approach to wellbeing and maintained our level 3 award in June 2024
- * We successfully completed Year One of the Being Well Doing Well programme, with all staff receiving training in Bereavement and Loss and Trauma and Attachment
- * A whole-school audit was completed to assess current practice, identify needs and implement actions to develop the emotional health and wellbeing needs of everyone within our school

Teaching and Learning

Assessment The school's assessment data continued to be utilised to monitor pupil progress. In-school interventions were put in place, including Literacy and Numeracy Sessions and Time to Read/Time to Count. Dyslexia Screener Testing software was purchased. Internal monitoring of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT continued and individual targets and whole class targets were set termly.

Numeracy We continued to build upon our Numeracy Problem-Solving resources and staff engaged in various training. Mathletics continued to be provided for the children through Shared Education funding. Time to Count volunteers held weekly sessions with small groups. Pupils on our Code of Practice, and those with significant difficulties were supported through small group intervention sessions.

Literacy Our Literacy coordinator received training in the development of Creative Writing from P1-P7. The Accelerated Reader Programme continued successfully for P4-P7. Our Foundation Stage teachers participated in EA Phonics Training. We invited Marion Bailie (EA) to discuss phonics progression. Our whole-school comprehension scheme was rolled out

ICT Internet Safety Policies were reviewed as part of our Safeguarding review. Digital Leaders were nominated in September 2023. Progression of skills in Using ICT continued to be developed and embedded in all classes as evidenced in our pupil portfolios.

Outdoor Learning Outdoor Learning and Outdoor Play was enhanced through the development of our outdoor spaces and our sensory garden. Our Foundation Stage teachers participated in training with Clare Devlin.

Music Our school choir successfully secured a place in Peace Proms 2024. Uplift music and drama afterschool club continued. Violin lessons in conjunction with the EA continued throughout the year and three of our pupils achieved Grade One in their exam. Many of our pupils took part in the Larne Music Festival.

PE Our after schools clubs include hockey and football. We have worked in partnership with Larne FC, Latharna Og, Larne Ladies Hockey Club, IFA and YMCA Basketball Club. We celebrated many sporting successes throughout the 23/24 academic year. We purchased CoreNI alongside our Shared Education schools and used this as our progressive PE programme.

Key Priorities for the 2024/2025 academic year

Child-centred provision

- * Continue to develop the roles of our School Council, Wellbeing Champions, Playground Monitors, Eco Council and Digital Leaders as representatives of all of our pupils, involving them in planning and decision making.
- * Develop our whole school approach to emotional health and wellbeing through completing year two of the EA Being Well Doing Well programme.
- * Ensure that all safeguarding procedures and training are up to date and in line with guidelines.
- * Continue to embed the Take 5 approach and promote positive mental health and wellbeing.
- * After consultation with all stakeholders, begin the implementation of the RSE 'Flourish' programme.

Special Educational Needs

- * Implementation of Personal Learning Plans in January 2025, replacing Individual Education plans
- * Review of strategies to embed provision mapping within whole school systems, to ensure that interventions and support resources are coordinated and deployed effectively and strategically.
- * Continued provision of interventions, strategies and techniques which demonstrate progress and support our pupils to achieve their full potential.

Quality Teaching and Learning

Numeracy

- * Continue to raise standards in Numeracy through review and refinement of the whole school approaches to the teaching of Problem Solving and Mathematical Reasoning.

Literacy

- * Continue to raise standards in Literacy through review and refinement of the whole school approaches to the teaching of reading and comprehension strategies (with a non-narrative focus). Our new literacy scheme will provide a progressive framework to support this.

ICT

- * To implement the Safer Schools app to our whole school community (staff, pupils, parents).
- * To introduce new ICT planners and plan for the development of skills related to our whole school agreed whole school UICT focus for the 24/25 year.
- * To continue to replace the interactive panels within school and update our ICT equipment.

A School Connected to its Local Community

- * Re-establish cluster groups within the Larne schools network.
- * Maintain links with our partnership schools through PeacePlus 3.1 – Shared Learning Together.
- * Review the current Parent Teacher Association; reinforce their good practice over the past years and encourage new parents to join.
- * Launch Year Two of the School Development Plan.
- * Explore opportunities for curriculum meetings.
- * Continue to promote and participate in events in the locality, building upon and developing new relationships with individuals and organisations.

Effective Leadership

- * Ensure that effective school development planning is ongoing, providing clear and realistic targets for improvement based on a sound vision for the school, with governors supporting and challenging the Principal and staff in carrying forward the process of improvement.