VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWTOWNARDS

Board of Governors Annual Report

2025/26

VALUED	PROTECTED	SUCCESSFUL
Known • included • respected	Safe • heard • cared for	Curious • confident • thriving

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A YEAR AT VICTORIA

Welcome

A message from the Principal

It is a pleasure to present the Board of Governors' Annual Report for Victoria Primary School for the academic year 2025/26.

Victoria Primary School continues to be a busy, happy and ambitious school at the heart of its community. Throughout the year, our priority has remained simple: to ensure that every child who comes through our doors feels **valued, protected and successful**.

We are very proud of the breadth of experiences offered to our children and of the commitment shown by our staff, pupils, parents, governors and wider school community.

Alongside the many successes and celebrations of school life, 2025/26 has also been a year of significant preparation and development. As a school, we have continued to reflect upon how we meet the increasingly diverse needs of our children, how we support high-quality teaching and learning, and how we ensure that Victoria is ready for the changing educational landscape in Northern Ireland.

The Board of Governors would like to record its sincere thanks to our staff for their continued professionalism, care and commitment and to our parents and carers for their ongoing partnership and support.

Most importantly, we congratulate our pupils. They remain at the centre of everything we do and continue to make Victoria a very special place in which to learn and work.

Mrs Faithe Moffett
Principal

Our promise to every child

To be valued. To be protected. To be successful.

At a glance

592 Approved enrolment	**85** P1 admissions	**430** Oct 2025 roll
2025/26 attendance percentage = 92.21%		**Number of mainstream classes = 18**

OUR SCHOOL

Governance

Strategic oversight, support and challenge

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management and strategic oversight of Victoria Primary School. The current Board serves for the period 2024–2028.

Board membership

Chairperson	Ms Laura Calvin
Vice Chairperson	Mrs Carol Thompson
EA representatives	Ms Laura Calvin; Mr Ewan Adair
Transferor representatives	Mrs Pamela Magowan; Mrs Carol Thompson; Rev Craig Lynn; Mrs Kathryn Kennedy
Parent representatives	Mrs Naomi Armstrong-Cotter; Mr Peter Shields
Teacher representative	Mrs Michelle Reid
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Faithe Moffett, Principal

The Board's role

- monitor educational standards, curriculum provision and school improvement;
- oversee staffing, admissions and the effective use of resources;
- monitor safeguarding, child protection, attendance and pupil welfare;
- oversee provision for pupils with special educational needs and accessibility;
- monitor school finances, premises and key strategic risks.

Governors meet regularly throughout the year and receive reports and information from the Principal and other staff to enable appropriate support, oversight and challenge.

FROM THE BOARD

Chairperson's Report

Reflecting on 2025/26

The 2025/26 academic year has once again demonstrated the strength, resilience and community spirit of Victoria Primary School.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to thank Mrs Moffett and the entire staff team for the dedication they continue to show to our pupils and families.

Schools continue to operate within a challenging educational and financial environment. Governors have worked closely with the Principal throughout the year to ensure that available resources are used as effectively as possible while maintaining the quality of educational provision for our children.

The Board has continued to place particular emphasis upon safeguarding, educational standards, inclusion and the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

We have also been encouraged by the continued breadth of opportunities available to Victoria pupils. Academic learning is complemented by sport, music, the arts, educational visits, clubs, leadership opportunities and many other experiences which contribute to children's personal, social and emotional development.

A particularly significant area of work during the year has been planning for the continued development of inclusive and specialist provision within Victoria. This reflects our commitment to meeting the needs of all children within our community and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

As Governors, we are enormously grateful for the partnership which exists between home and school. We recognise the pressures facing families and schools alike and thank parents and carers for their support throughout the year.

We look forward to building upon the progress made during 2025/26 as Victoria moves into an exciting new stage of its development.

Ms Laura Calvin

Chairperson, Board of Governors

VALUED • PROTECTED • SUCCESSFUL

Our Vision & Curriculum

A broad curriculum with high expectations for every learner

VALUED	PROTECTED	SUCCESSFUL
Every child should feel known, included, respected and encouraged.	Children should feel physically and emotionally safe and know where to seek help.	High standards, individual strengths and the confidence to think, create and persevere.

Learning and teaching

Victoria Primary School provides a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with Northern Ireland curriculum requirements. The six Areas of Learning are Language and Literacy; Mathematics and Numeracy; The World Around Us; The Arts; Physical Education; and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding.

Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are developed across the curriculum alongside Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Religious Education is provided throughout the school, together with opportunities for collective worship. Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education and/or collective worship.

Assessment is used throughout the school to identify strengths, monitor progress and determine appropriate next steps. Parents are kept informed through consultations and the annual written pupil report.

Our developing learning priorities

Creative writing • Mathematical reasoning and problem solving • Preparing for the opportunities arising through TransformED NI

OUR FIRST PROMISE

VALUED

Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and belonging

Victoria Primary School is committed to being an inclusive school in which children are supported according to their individual needs.

Where a child is identified as having additional or special educational needs, staff work closely with parents, the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and, where appropriate, external professionals to determine suitable provision and support.

Children may receive differentiated classroom provision, targeted interventions, learning support or additional adult support according to identified need and available provision. The Board of Governors continues to oversee implementation of the school's Special Educational Needs policy and the effective use of resources allocated to support children with additional needs.

Developing specialist provision

During 2025/26 the school continued to experience increasing diversity and complexity of need. An important development was the work undertaken with the Education Authority in preparation for enhanced specialist provision within Victoria Primary School. Significant planning was required in relation to accommodation, staffing, resources and the needs of the children who would ultimately access the provision.

This preparatory work paved the way for the establishment of Victoria's specialist Social Communication provision in the following academic year.

Accessibility

Victoria seeks to ensure that pupils with disabilities are able to access school life as fully as possible. The school building includes lift access to support movement throughout the premises. Where necessary, individual arrangements, including Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs), are developed.

Belonging matters

We seek to prevent pupils with disabilities from being treated less favourably and keep accessibility arrangements and individual needs under review.

OUR SECOND PROMISE

PROTECTED

Safeguarding, pastoral care and wellbeing

Safeguarding is everybody's business

We aim to create an environment in which children feel secure, listened to and able to seek help when they need it.

The school operates a child-centred approach to safeguarding. Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and staff receive appropriate training.

Safeguarding team

Designated Teacher	Mrs Michelle Reid
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mr Dane McCoy
Deputy Designated Teacher	Miss Lynda Jellie
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs Ruth Martindale

Pastoral care and wellbeing

Positive relationships remain central to life at Victoria. Staff work closely with families where children experience difficulties which may affect their wellbeing or learning. The school continued to provide additional emotional and pastoral support to children where appropriate, including access to counselling provision.

Security and health & safety

Controlled access arrangements operate throughout the school. Visitors are required to follow school signing-in and identification procedures and access to the building is carefully managed. Health and safety arrangements, risk assessments and emergency procedures are kept under review and Governors continue to monitor matters relating to the school premises.

OUR THIRD PROMISE

SUCCESSFUL

Achievement, opportunity and the wider curriculum

Success at Victoria is about much more than a test score. We want our children to achieve academically while also developing confidence, creativity, independence, resilience and an understanding of how to work with others.

LEARN	GROW	SHINE
High expectations and progress	Confidence, resilience and independence	Music, sport, creativity and leadership

Beyond the classroom

Throughout 2025/26 pupils had opportunities to participate in a broad range of experiences alongside classroom learning. These included sporting activities, music, choir and performance, educational visits, clubs and other enrichment opportunities.

Instrumental tuition and opportunities within music continued to enhance the curriculum, while sporting activities allowed pupils to represent Victoria and develop teamwork, commitment and confidence. The school is enormously grateful to members of staff who voluntarily give their time and talents to provide extra-curricular opportunities.

Celebrating success

Victoria believes strongly in recognising children's achievements in all their forms. Academic progress, effort, sporting achievements, creativity, musical accomplishments, kindness, leadership and contribution to school life are all worthy of celebration. We were delighted to win the football league this year! Friday celebration assemblies are one of the highlights of our week; along with the 'spinny wheel' celebrating our Attendance Heroes (Here, Every day, Ready, On Time).

Pupil voice and P7 transition

Children are encouraged to take responsibility and develop leadership skills. P7 pupils are supported as they prepare for post-primary education and their achievements and contribution to Victoria are celebrated at the end of the year.

WORKING TOGETHER

Our School Community

Parents, Victoria Plus and community partnerships

Strong relationships between school and home remain one of Victoria's greatest strengths. Parents and carers support the school through attendance at events, support for children's learning, volunteering and fundraising.

Victoria Plus

Our Parent Teacher Association, Victoria Plus, continued to support the school community during 2025/26. Its work is about more than fundraising: parent volunteers contribute time, energy and ideas which enrich the experiences available to our children. We managed to raise over £9000 which is an incredible amount! The money has been raised from:

- Design your own Christmas Card
- Pumpkin Carving
- Christmas Fun Day
- Copper Challenge
- £20.26 challenge
- Summer Fair

This money will go towards new equipment for school, classrooms and help subsidise trips so everyone will benefit.

Community links

Victoria values its place within the wider Newtownards community. Throughout the year pupils benefit from links with community organisations, local services, churches, charities, sporting organisations and other partners.

Extended provision

Breakfast Club continues to provide support for families before the beginning of the school day. Wraparound childcare is also available through an external provider.

A school at the heart of its community

Thank you to parents, volunteers, community partners, staff and external providers whose contribution enriches school life.

Our Team

With thanks for everything they bring to school life

Victoria's greatest resource is its people. The Board of Governors wishes to acknowledge the commitment of our teaching, classroom support, administrative, supervisory, cleaning and premises staff.
The needs of a large primary school are complex and the smooth running of Victoria depends upon the contribution of every member of the team.

Teaching staff

Principal	Mrs F Moffett
Vice Principal	Mr D McCoy
Primary 1	Mrs R Martindale, Mrs L Irwin, Mrs C McGimpsey
Primary 2	Mrs R Malloy, Miss E Benson, Miss R Spence
Primary 3	Mrs C Dempster, Mrs M Hamilton, Mrs J Kingsmill
Primary 4	Mrs N Reid, Mrs E Gibson, Miss A Beggs
Primary 5	Mr R Griffith, Miss L Jellie
Primary 6	Mrs M Reid, Mrs J Gibson, Mr R Johnston
Primary 7	Mr M Jordan, Miss G Marcus, Mrs J Carlile, Mrs C Stewart
Learning Support / SEN	Mrs K Campbell, Mr M Milliken

Support staff

- Office: Mrs L Mitchell, Mrs J Patton
- Building Supervisors: Mr G Heaney and Mr G McKee
- Classroom Assistants / SEN Assistants: Mrs G Taylor, Mrs I Beggs, Miss L Allcoat, Miss R Hutton, Mrs M McMaster, Mrs T Nixon, Mrs L McMeekan, Mrs J Chambers, Miss N Baird, Mrs L Pue, Mrs L Campbell, Miss C Willis, Mrs M Lennon, Miss S Watton, Mrs R van Aswegen, Miss S Black, Mrs A Begum, Miss K Kennedy, Miss K McKee, Miss E Poots, Mrs L McDonald, Miss N Adair, Mrs S Carinduff, Mrs A Ewing, Mrs S Wilson, Miss V Stewart, Miss K Campbell, Miss J Adair, Mrs S McWhirter, Mrs C Kennedy, Ms V Donnelly, Miss H Mulholland, Miss A Moore, Mrs D Sinton, Mrs K Shields, Mrs L Pedlow, Mrs C Parker, Miss S Hunter, Mr D Jakobsen, Mr P Murray
- Lunch Supervisors: Mrs C Frew, Mrs A Robinson, Ms A Musina, Mrs A Davison, Mrs A Brown
- Cleaning Staff: Mrs K Wilson, Mrs A Neill, Ms S Sheals, Mrs Y Pulido, Ms E Paegle

With thanks

The Board thanks every member of staff for the contribution they made to Victoria Primary School during 2025/26.

STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT

School Improvement & Finance

Planning carefully for the future

School improvement is an ongoing process rather than a single initiative. During 2025/26, leaders and Governors continued to monitor the priorities within the School Development Plan and to consider the school's next steps.

VALUED	PROTECTED	SUCCESSFUL
Inclusion • relationships • pupil voice	Safeguarding • wellbeing • attendance	Handwriting • problem solving

Financial management

The Board of Governors oversees the effective use of the financial resources available to the school. Governors continue to monitor the school's financial position carefully within a challenging financial climate.

EA Outturn Statement 2025/26

LMS Outturn Statement – Financial Year 2025/26

ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School Name: Victoria PS Newtownards **EA Ref:** 20759

DE Ref No: 4011646 **Pupil Count:** 443

		Schools' Delegated
		£
(A)	**SCHOOL BUDGET**	
(1)	Carry Forward from 2024/25	-906,003
(2)	Formula Budget Allocation	1,895,219
(3)	DE Initiatives:	
	- SENCo Implementation of SEND Act	14,544
	- Extended Schools	18,240
	- Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)	7,921
	- Pre School Education	0
	- Nurture Provision	0
	- Mainstreaming Shared Education	0
	- Asylum Seeking Refugee CYP	0
	- Afghan Funding	0
	- Getting Ready to Learn	0
	- New Shared Education Campuses	0
	- Curriculum Review – Working Group	0
	- Research Informed Conferences	0
	- Associate Assessors	0
	- New IM Schools / Units	0
	- Other DE Initiatives	229
	Sub Total	**40,934**
(4)	EA Initiatives	0
(5)	In Year Growth	0
(6)	Contingency Fund	0
(7)	Split Site Funding	0
	Total Schools Resources Available	**1,030,151**
(B)	**ACCRUED EXPENDITURE**	
(8)	Teaching Staff	1,735,399
(9)	Non-Teaching Staff	487,284
(10)	Other Employee	1,304
(11)	Non-Staff Costs incl Premises	166,222
(12)	Capital	0
(13)	Income	-7,158
	Total Resource Expenditure	**2,383,050**
(C)	**BALANCE (A-B)**	**-1,352,899**

School Fund 2025/26

Monies such as for school dinners, swimming and trips all come in and out of the school account.

Opening balance	**£ 5,701.38**
Total income	**£104,378.00**
Total expenditure	**£103,844.59**
Closing balance	**£6,234.79**

Looking Ahead

2026/27 and the next stage of Victoria's journey

The end of one school year is also the beginning of the next stage of Victoria's journey. Our priorities for 2026/27 will be organised around three simple but important promises to our children.

VALUED

We will continue to strengthen inclusive practice so that every child experiences belonging, appropriate support and opportunities to participate fully in school life.

PROTECTED

Safeguarding will remain a key strategic priority across all areas of school life. We will continue to develop children's wellbeing, safety, relationships and confidence to seek help.

SUCCESSFUL

We will focus particularly upon improving children's experiences and outcomes in creative writing and mathematical problem solving, while engaging with the developing TransformED agenda.

The opening of our new specialist Social Communication provision, The Hub, in September 2026 represents an exciting and important development for Victoria and for the children and families it will serve.

We will also continue to review our systems, curriculum, professional learning and approaches to school improvement so that Victoria is well placed to respond positively to educational change.

And finally…

Schools are ultimately about people. Buildings, budgets, policies, plans and data all matter, but what matters most is what a child experiences when they walk through our doors each morning.

Do they feel welcome?

Do they feel safe?

Do they believe that they can succeed?

At Victoria Primary School, these questions sit at the heart of our work. The Board of Governors thanks our children, parents, staff and wider community for everything they contributed during 2025/26.

VALUED • PROTECTED • SUCCESSFUL