

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 94.61%. This was above the national NI average rate for primary schools in 2024/2025.

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 training for SaferSchools and we implemented the use of this app with all staff completing at least two training modules. We also encouraged parent to download and use the SaferSchools app.

Pupil Voice The School Councillors were elected in September 2024 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 initiatives.

Health and Wellbeing We continued to expand our school's Extra-Curricular Programme and offered a wide range of activities for all pupils. Clubs included Coding, Construction, Dance, Singing, Eco, Junglenastix and Football. 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 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 continued to implement strategies as part of our Eco School status and Green Flag award. Our Eco Committee, led by Miss Cunning were instrumental in this.

School Trips Our pupils all enjoyed school trips throughout the year including visits to Stormont, Woodhall, W5, Airtastic, Bowling, Post Office, Larne Museum, Larne Library and local parks and places of interest. We invited 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 2024. Parents/Guardians were invited to attend parent/teacher consultation meetings in February 2025.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) The PTA held a number of very successful school events including Christmas Bingo, Santa visit, Christmas Fair, Halloween Disco, Easter activities including a virtual duck race, colour run and the Summer Fair—all of which raised a fantastic £5846.00 for school funds. We were able to purchase the last two interactive panels, allocate money to each class for resources, and purchase a new iPad for each class.

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 and Larne Schools Swimming Gala. Our pupils also attended many local events and used the locality for a range of learning opportunities. We invited representatives to school from local businesses, organisations and charities. Our school choir participated in PeaceProms 2025.

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 Fair, 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 YPeacePlayers, IFA Disney programme and PeaceProms 2025.

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 and Trocaire, 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 2024/2025 academic year in St MacNissi's Primary School.

Some of our priority targets for the 2025/2026 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 third 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
- * New staff members vetted through Access NI
- * Preventative Curriculum continued with many activities and events

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 2024
- * 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 2025
- * We successfully completed Year Two 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 training opportunities. Baselines, Next Steps and Winter Tests informed target setting and future planning.

ICT Internet Safety Policies were reviewed as part of our Safeguarding review. Digital Leaders/Junior Digital Leaders were nominated in September 2024. 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. Our local environment was used to enhance outdoor learning.

Music Our school choir successfully secured a place in Peace Proms 2025. A grant from EA Friends of Music enabled us to purchase a Charanga license for a year, a class set of ocarinas and 100 tin whistles. Violin lessons in conjunction with the EA continued throughout the year and many of our pupils achieved grades in music exams. Our school choir took part in the Larne Music Festival and were runners up in their category.

PE Our after schools clubs included Larne FC football and Fine Tuning Coaching. We have worked in partnership with Larne FC, Latharna Og, Larne Ladies Hockey Club, Larne Rugby Club, IFA and YMCA Basketball Club. We celebrated many sporting successes throughout the 24/25 academic year. Dominic McKinley (Gaelfast) provided GAA coaching for a term for P3-P7 pupils. Larne Rugby Club provided coaching for P1 and P7 pupils.

Key Priorities for the 2025/2026 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 three 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 with 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 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 continue to develop our new ICT planners and plan for the development of skills related to our whole school agreed whole school UJCT focus for the 25/26 year.
- * To continue to 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 ASPIRE
- * Reinforce the good practice of the PTA over the past years and encourage new parents to join.
- * Introduce a Parent Focus Group to provide feedback on selected school policies and procedures to ensure that they reflect the diverse perspectives of our parent community
- * Launch Year Three 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.

Continual review and updating of school policies is ongoing.