



Tandragee Junior High School

Annual Governors' Report
2024/2025

November 2025

Mission Statement

Mission Statement

“To instil in pupils core values of Care, Courtesy and Consideration in a Christian ethos and to promote positive attitudes to learning by encouraging each pupil to develop holistically.”

- 1 To encourage pupils to be inquisitive about the world around them and to develop openness to new experiences.
- 2 To help pupils acquire knowledge and skills necessary to everyday living.
- 3 To develop the pupils' ability to discuss, analyse, reach decisions and apply themselves to tasks, thus creating a sense of purpose and ambition.
- 4 To develop the ability to communicate effectively through listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- 5 To develop individuality, independence, self-confidence and the ability to regard oneself critically.
- 6 To develop tolerance, awareness of others and the ability to respect values and opinions that may differ from one's own.
- 7 To develop a sense of responsibility to and caring for others, helping the pupils to realise that we are all interdependent.



Tandragee Junior High School

Principal: C W Brown B.Ed., M.Ed., PQH (NI)

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Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope this letter finds you well. We are incredibly proud of our school community. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the strong and positive relationships we continue to nurture with our pupils their families and the wider community of Tandragee.

Our school has always grown from strength to strength. Thanks of course to the dedication of our exceptional staff, the enthusiasm and hard work of our students, and the unwavering support of our parents. Together we have created an environment where every child feels valued, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Recently our school was inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). The feedback from the inspection was both insightful and constructive. There was acknowledgment of the many strengths within our school and its provision. Particularly the dedication of our staff and the positive attitudes of our students. The report referenced several areas which had been identified by the school where we can make improvements.

As Governors, we are fully committed to working closely with our entire school team to address these priorities. We recognize that evaluation processes are vital to ensure that every child continues to receive the best possible education and experience during their time at Tandragee Junior High. We are confident that with the collective effort and support of our staff, pupils, and parents, we can move forward together to build on our strengths and make the necessary improvements.

We also want to express our deep gratitude to you, our parents and guardians, for your continued partnership. Your support and involvement in school life is invaluable in helping us create a positive and nurturing environment for all of our children. We will keep you updated on our progress as we implement the improvements and work towards our shared goal of providing the highest quality education for all of our students.

Thank you once again for being an essential part of our school community. Together, we will continue to grow with Care, Courtesy and Consideration.

Warm Regards

Susan Cross
Chairperson, Board of Governors

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Care, Courtesy and Consideration

Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

- 1 The establishment of aims and objectives for the school and the drawing up of policy statements where a written policy is required.
- 2 Implementation of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, keeping it under review, endeavouring to develop links with the local community and where possible, developing the objectives of Education for Mutual Understanding.
- 3 Selecting staff, making promotions and other personnel responsibilities.
- 4 Drawing up an Admissions Policy and, if necessary, applying it to prospective pupils.
5. Managing the school's finances.
- 6 Maintaining the school premises in conjunction with the Education Authority (E.A).
- 7 Providing parents with a School Prospectus and making available an Annual Report.

The Following Board has been in Office from October 2018 – February 2025

Chairperson:	Mr R Leckey (E.A. Representative)
Vice-Chairman:	Mr W Marks/Mrs S Cross (Transferor Representatives)
E.A. Representatives:	Mrs L Campbell Mrs S Macartney Mr L McIlwrath
Transferor Representatives:	Mrs C Agg – Clare Primary School Mr S Cross – Poyntzpass Primary School Mr W Marks – Tandragee Primary School Mrs S Henderson – Moyallon Primary School Rev M McMaw – Tandragee Primary School
Parents' Representatives:	Mr R Abbott Mrs M Beattie Mrs D Toal
Teachers' Representatives:	Mrs L Gilmore Mr J Henning
Secretary:	Mr CW Brown

The following Board has been in office since February 2025

Name	Designation	Voting / Non-voting	Role
Mrs Susan Cross	Transferor	Voting	Chairperson/Safeguarding
Mrs Carol Agg	Transferor	Voting	Vice-Chairperson
Mrs Louise Campbell	EA	Voting	Chair of Staffing Committee
Mr Lavelle McIlwrath	EA	Voting	Safeguarding
Mrs Emily Doherty	EA	Voting	Staffing Committee
Mr Paul Berry	EA	Voting	Finance Committee
Mrs Diane Toal	Parent	Voting	Staffing Committee/SEN
Mr Noel Little	Parent	Voting	Attendance/Health/Welfare
Mr Christopher Shields	Parent	Voting	Finance Committee
Mrs Wendy Grant	Transferor	Voting	Staffing Committee
Mrs Tracey Tedford	Transferor	Voting	Chair of Finance Committee
Mrs Ann O'Hara	Transferor	Voting	Attendance/Health/Welfare/SEN
Mr Ian Patterson	Teacher rep	Voting	Teacher Representative
Mr C W Brown	Principal	Non-Voting	

The Board of Governors met 8 times in 2024/2025.

Current year
2025/2026 is
available on school
website:
www.tjhs.co.uk

Tandragee Junior High School
School Dates 2024/2025(Pupil)

Autumn Term

Bank Holiday
School Opens Years 10 only
School Opens Year 9 & LSC S
School Opens Year 8 only
Years 8/LSCJ 8 only Full day & Reach Changes Event
LSCJ Yrs 9& 10
Years 8 – 12 (all year groups) – Full Day
Year 8 Information Evening
Sentinus Robotics (Year 8)
European Week of Languages
Year 10 Information Evening (Assessment)
Year 8 Study Skills Evening for Parents
Pink Day
Prize Afternoon
School Development Day
Mid Term
Educ Experience Day P7 pupils
Christmas Exams/Assessments
Christmas Lunch (Pupils)
School Development Day
Christmas Concert
Year 8 Outing
School Quiz
Christmas Assembly
Year 8 Parents' Afternoon*
Last Day of Term

Monday 26 August
Tuesday 27th August half day (12.20 noon finish no buses)
Wednesday 28 August half day (12.20 noon finish no buses)
Thursday 29 August half day (12 noon finish no buses)
Friday 30 August
Friday 30 August half day (12 noon finish no buses)
Monday 2 September
Thursday 5 September 7.30 – 8.30pm
Friday 20 September
w/c Monday 23 September (MFL assembly Friday 27th September)
Thursday 26 September – 7.30 – 8.30pm
Monday 30 September – 7.30 – 8.30pm
Friday 11 October
Thursday 24 October (12.20pm finish)
Friday 25 October
Thursday 31 October – Monday 4 November incl.
Friday 8 November
Friday 22 November – Monday 2 December
Wednesday 4 December
Monday 9 December
Thursday 12 December 7.00pm
Friday 13 December (9.30 – 12.20pm)
Tuesday 17 December
Wednesday 18 December (8.40 – 9.20am)
Wednesday 18 December 3.00pm to 5.30pm
Friday 20 December 2024 (12.00 noon finish with buses)
Non-uniform Day

Spring Term

Baker Day/Year 10 Parents' Afternoon*
School Opens
Open Evening P6/7 Parents
School Development Day
Year 9 Parents' Afternoon*
Red Day
Mid Term
School Development Day
Year 11 & 12 Information Afternoon
Transfer Exams
Holiday
Last Day of Term

Monday 6 January 2025 (12.30 to 2.50pm)
Tuesday 7 January 2025
Thursday 9 January - 7.00 - 9.00pm (1.30pm finish)
Friday 10 January
Thursday 16 January (3.00pm – 5.30pm)
Friday 7 February
Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 February (inc)
Monday 17 February
Friday 21 February
Friday 14 March – Monday 24 March (inc)
Monday 17 March
Friday 11 April (12 noon finish with buses) Non Uniform Day

Summer Term

School Opens
Bank Holiday
PTIE & PTIM for Years 8, 9 & 10
Geography Sponsored Walk
Summer Exams Year 8/9
Bank Holiday
Senior High School Induction Day (Portadown College)
School Development Day
Sports Day
Carlingford Trip
Special Assembly
Prefects' Evening Meal
Annual House Award
Leavers' Event
Last Day of Term

Monday 28 April
Monday 5 May
Early May
May - Date to be confirmed
Friday 23 May – Monday 2 June inc
Monday 26 May
TBC
Monday 9 June
Friday 13 June
Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 June
Tuesday 24 June
Thursday 26 June
Wednesday 25 June (p1-4)
Thursday 26 June
Monday 30 June (12 noon finish & buses) Non-Uniform Day
(No Canteen)

**Dates/Times may be subject to change and additional School Development days and working within Executive restrictions if current pandemic is still ongoing*

Enrolment:

In September 2024 105 pupils were enrolled. There were 341 pupils in total.

Attendance for the year was 90%.

Curriculum:

Key Stage 3 Results

During the periods of ASOS, Key Stage 3 results were not submitted.

General Learning Area	Subjects
• Learning for Life and Work	Home Economics Personal Development Citizenship Employability/Careers
• Physical Education	Physical Education
• Religious Education	Religious Education
• ICT	ICT
• English	English and Drama
• Mathematics	Mathematics/Financial Capability
• Science & Technology	Science Technology & Design
• Environment & Society	Geography History
• Modern Languages	French Spanish (Years 9 and 10)
• The Arts	Art & Design Music

Number of Classes:

Year 8	-	5 classes
Year 9	-	5 classes
Year 10	-	5 classes
L.S.C.	-	2 classes

Learning Support Centre

The past year has been very productive for Year 11 and 12 pupils in the Learning Support Centre. SRC provision and the Life Skills Programme delivered by MENCAP, have both successfully resumed.

Entry level CCEA and OCN exams have been completed in a number of curriculum areas. All Year 12 pupils have also been engaged in work experience placements.

Learning for Life and Work

Learning for Life and Work is taught through the strands of Home Economics, Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development. Pupils have opportunities to engage with a variety of outside agencies including – Young Enterprise, Love for Life, Sentinus, Mencap and DEL. Pupils can also avail of counselling through Links as needed and Reach mentoring.

Consultation

Throughout the year there have been opportunities for stakeholders to provide views on school policies, prior to them being ratified by governors.

Governors have agreed to facilitate focus groups to widen the opportunities we provide for consultation.

Last March, Board of Governors' members attended a Friday assembly and undertook lesson walk throughs. This was a useful opportunity to be informed about the school's pastoral and curricular provision, to experience teaching and learning and celebrate the positive behaviour and good relationships among staff and pupils.

Finances

The Board of Governors' Finance and Salaries Committee continued to meet during the year.

Expenditure for the year 2024/2025

	£	£
Budget for the Year 2024/2025	1,780,040	
Additional Money during year	97,184	
Overspend from 2023/2024	-193,687	
Funds available for 2024/2025		1,683,537
Teachers' Salaries	1,555,876	
Non-teaching Salaries	276,059	
Reallocation	90,392	
Operational Costs	68,816	
Income	-73,361	
Capital	13,919	
Premises, Fixed plant & Gds	59,154	
Staff Other Costs	1,498	
Non Capital Purchases	44,699	
Net Expenditure	2,023,133	

Carryover Surplus/Deficit 2024/25 Financial year -£339,596 as of 31st March 2025.

Total budget for 2025/2026 with overspend deducted was £1,666,859

Grant

Tandragee Junior High School led a submission to the James Kane Foundation for £60,000 to provide shared attendance/engagement officers. The first year has been reviewed and 2 further years have been funded. This work has greatly benefited our pupils and our pastoral team.

Extra-curricular

Art Club

Art Club was held every week after school. All pupils have the opportunity to stay on a Tuesday with Mrs Bryson and use this time to catch up with work in class and complete art homework .

Choir & Orchestra

The choir and orchestra performed at many events in school in addition to Prize Day including the school's Christmas Concert and at special assemblies for Christmas, Easter, Year 10 leavers and the World Languages week. Outside school, the choir and orchestra performed at Rushmere shopping centre at Christmas and some Year 10 singers performed at the Tandragee Christmas Lights Switch on at Tayto Castle.

Scripture Union

Scripture Union has continued to meet once a week at Wednesday break time in the Technology suite. On average about 60 to 70 pupils attend each week to hear the Gospel message from a number of staff, teachers and Technicians. In the autumn term Crown Jesus Ministries held workshops for the whole school in advance of a Youth night at South Lakes Leisure centre, and held follow up sessions in school with Stephen Graham (formerly of R8 church as the area link). Other guest speakers last year included Danny Roberts, Josh Brown, Matthew Winning and Bethany Sanderson (from Logos Ministries International), Phil Hartin (Tandragee Free Presbyterian), Chris Killen, and Mrs Gilmore and Katie Gilmore (from Mullabrack/Kilclooney Abaana Uganda Team). The year 10 SU regulars celebrated with a pizza lunch in June.

Farming Club

Our Farming Club meets every second Thursday of the month and is open to Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. It is a great opportunity for pupils to come together and share their farming interests or for those without such experiences to learn and be encouraged by their peers and guest speakers.

We have a full and varied programme of events and always look forward to our celebratory trip to Balmoral Show in May.

Cookery Club

Our cookery club provides pupils with an opportunity to enhance their practical skills while making lots of delicious treats. Each year group has the opportunity to participate in this 4 week programme on a rotational basis. Pupils are encouraged to share ideas with their peers and create bakes to take home. Firm favourites include biscoff truffles, funfetti cookies and caramel squares.

Eco Club

Eco Club has started to take place on a Wednesday afternoon once a month from 2.50-3.50pm and is open to all year groups. We have 20 members who are dedicated and care about our school environment. Our aim is to reduce litter around the school by encouraging everyone to use the bins provided and also to recycle where possible. Members of Eco Club also take responsibility for the school garden, where we plant and grow various fruits and vegetables in the spring/summer months. We are aiming to take part in a 'cash for cans' scheme ran by a local business which will give us the opportunity to gather funds for Eco Club to be used throughout the school.

Hockey

Year 9 & 10 trained regularly on a Tuesday afternoon with Mrs McMurray and Mrs McCallan. Year 8 practice took place on a Monday with Mrs Camblin. All teams competed in the Mid Ulster Schools' League and Cup competitions. The year 10 girls won a bronze medal in the U14 Cup tournament at Royal School Dungannon. Well done girls. Thank you to the staff who give us the opportunity.

Special congratulations to Maisie Sinton who was selected for the Ulster U15 development squad whilst still only 13 and has retained her place this year on the programme.

Netball

Over 30 Year 8 girls enjoyed meeting on a Tuesday afternoon to practise skills and play netball matches together. They participated in the Vista tournament in South Lakes, representing themselves and TJHS superbly. Emily Uprichard was selected by the other schools as our player of the tournament. The year 9 & 10 girls played in the VISTA league and cup competitions travelling to play local opposition and hosting other schools at TJHS. The girls have made great progress and we look forward to getting the league matches started after the half term break.

Girls Football

Mrs Emily Doherty works diligently with the girls football team at the Rec on a Wednesday afternoon. The girls train hard each week and last year in the Mid Ulster Schools U14 league and Cup. Our link with Tandragee Rovers via Mrs Doherty has been instrumental in encouraging more girls to play the game and has benefited both our girls school team and the girls side at the club.

Rugby

We continue to have great numbers participating in rugby for the size of school. Our Under 14 boys took part in the High Schools Bowl finals days and our Under 12 boys took part in 3 of the High Schools Regional blitzes. Our U14 girls also took part in a Girls Rugby 7s schools blitz in Omagh, the first time our school has ever represented at an official contact rugby event for girls.

Athletics

Our pupils competed in the District Championships held at Antrim Forum and Clones. In total we won 2 gold, 1 silver and 9 bronze medals. This was a fantastic achievement with all medal winners also competing at the Ulster Schools Championships. Special mention to Emily Uprichard who broke the school record for Year 8 High Jump, a record that had stood since 1985!

Cross-Country

Our pupils took part in the annual District championships held on a very hilly course at Palace Stables, Armagh. Will Davison finished a fantastic 2nd and our year 10 boys team won Bronze medals. They all competed in the Ulster Schools finals at Mallusk.

Boys Football

The year 10 boys had a great season with 4 wins and 1 draw in the mid ulster league. Practices were always full and lead by two titans on the pitch, Will Davidson and Reuben Blevins.

The year 9 Boys had a challenging season, narrowly losing out to St John the Baptist and Lurgan Junior High in the Mid Ulster League.

The year 8 Boys won the Mid-Ulster league. They won all of their matches in the league defeating Newbridge, St. John the Baptist High, Lurgan Junior High, St. Patricks Keady and St. Patrick's College.

Sports day is very much a highlight of the year with pupils, parents and Primary School pupils enjoying the car-park activities, in addition to the track and field events. We had a total of 150 pupils participate in the events, with 20 helpers helping with sound, car-park activities and the tuck shop. There were 4 new school records set this year. We also raise money for Portadown Christmas Toy Appeal each year. A very worthy cause.

Volleyball

We continue to enjoy great success on the volleyball court and it remains one of the most popular sports in TJHS. 44 former pupils have now represented Northern Ireland. Special mention to our Year 9 and 10 Boys teams who won Gold and Silver medals this year.

The PE Department is very proud of the extensive extra-curricular sports programme offered in TJHS and would like to thank all staff, coaches and of course pupils that contribute in any way. Together we Aim High... Reach Higher.

The Year 10s and LSC Senior took part in the Geography/Science Department sponsored walk in May- an amazing total of £1259.55 was raised and was split between the British Heart Foundation, Abanna Uganda project and upkeep of schools Heart Start training equipment. It was absolutely wonderful to see our money being put to practical use during Mrs Gilmore's mission trip to Uganda in the Summer.

Concluding Remarks

The Board of Governors would like to thank you for your continued support. They, along with the Principal, Vice Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff will continue to provide the best possible education for all pupils who attend Tandragee Junior High School.