



December 2025

It is with great pleasure, as Chair of the Board of Governors of Strathearn School (the 'School'), that I present the Annual Report for the academic year 2024-2025. The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide an overview of the school's performance, key developments and the work undertaken by the Board of Governors in discharging its functions.

Throughout the year the Board has worked closely with the Principal and the Senior Leadership team. We have ensured that the School's strategic objectives align with the evolving needs of our pupils and the wider educational community. We have sought to provide a nurturing environment for pupils which encourages intellectual curiosity, creativity, integrity and collaboration. We have sustained our high standards in education, while being mindful of our accountability for managing resources effectively and efficiently in the context of the challenging financial situation faced by schools in Northern Ireland. We have invested in technology, professional development and innovative learning initiatives to ensure that Strathearn School remains at the forefront of educational excellence.

The 2024-2025 year has seen examination results return to pre-pandemic levels. I am delighted to report that our pupils have once again excelled. Performance at GCSE level was outstanding, being the best year ever in the history of the school. At AS and A level pupils also attained exceptional results. The dedication of our teachers and staff and the strong support of parents/carers and other stakeholders is undoubtedly a contributory factor to academic excellence in our school.

We also have provided many opportunities for extracurricular activities, volunteering and fundraising for charitable causes, all of which enables the school to nurture creativity, service, leadership and character in our pupils. These opportunities are designed to equip them for a world that needs rational leaders, compassionate citizens and creative problem solvers. We do this through partnerships with local schools and higher educational establishments, businesses and community groups.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board for their significant and unstinting assistance, commitment and support of the school. I am especially grateful to our Principal, teachers and staff for their dedication and effort, and to our parents/carers who play an invaluable role in encouraging and supporting their daughters on their educational journey with us. I also thank our pupils for all their hard work and for everything they contribute to Strathearn.

*R. Bailie*

Rosemary Bailie  
Board of Governors - Chair

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ON THE 2024/25 SCHOOL YEAR**

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This report incorporates the statutory requirements for reporting to parents.

**TERM DATES 2025/26**

<b>2025 – 2026 SCHOOL YEAR</b>	
CHRISTMAS TERM:	29 August – 19 December 2025
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	27 October – 31 October 2025
EASTER TERM:	5 January – 27 March 2026
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	9-13 February 2026
SUMMER TERM:	13 April – 30 June 2026
BANK HOLIDAYS:	4 May 2026

## **CURRICULUM DETAILS**

The Strathearn Curriculum at Key Stage 3 aims to give every girl in Years 8-10 a broad, balanced and appropriately challenging education.

In Year 8, pupils study the following subjects:

Art and Design, English (incorporating Drama), French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Science and Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 this is supplemented by German or Spanish.

In Year 10 the girls study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate Science subjects.

In the weekly Learning for Life and Work period(s), led by their Form Teacher, the girls investigate a range of themes, including Personal Development, Employability (including Careers Education) and Local and Global Citizenship.

The Curriculum at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) aims to continue this broad, balanced and appropriately challenging educational experience for every girl in Years 11 and 12. We aim to lay a secure foundation for her progression to A Level and so all of the girls study a core set of subjects:

English, English Literature, Mathematics, a modern foreign language, a Science subject, Physical Education and Religious Studies (full or short course).

Subjects offered at this stage also include:

Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Digital Technology (ICT), Double Award Science, Drama, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Home Economics (Food and Nutrition), Music, Physics, Physical Education (GCSE) and Spanish.

In general pupils will be entered for a total of 9 GCSE subjects (with pupils who take Further Maths taking 9.5, with the Religious Studies GCSE Short Course). The girls continue to investigate further themes in the areas of Personal Development, Employability and Citizenship as part of Learning for Life and Work period led by their Form Teacher.

In our Sixth Form the girls generally choose four subjects for study to AS Level in the Lower Sixth and they continue to study three of these to Advanced (A2) Level in their final year at Strathearn.

This year pupils have made choices from:

Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Digital Technology, Drama & Theatre Studies, English Literature, French, Geography, Government & Politics, German, Health & Social Care, History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Moving Image Arts, Music, Nutrition & Food, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish and BTEC Sport.

In L6 pupils continue to meet with their Form Teacher for one period a week; additionally, they have one period dedicated to Careers Education Information & Guidance.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2024/25

### PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2024/25

The Department of Education (NI) has determined the way in which all schools should present statistics for public examination results, the destinations of school leavers, and annual attendance rates. The paragraphs which follow provide this information in the format required.

#### Trend Information for previous three years as given by Department of Education

Category	(%2025)		(% 2024)				(% 2023)				(%2019)		
	School	NI Girls Gr.	School	NI Girls Gr.	NI All Gr.	FSM Band Gr.	School	NI Girls Gr.	NI All Gr.	FSM Band Gr.	School	NI Girls Gr.	NI All Gr.
5+ GCSE A* - C	98.3		98.3 (100)^	97.9	96.6	98.9	99.1	98.1	97.6	99.0	99.1	97.9	96.1
5+ GCSE A* - C (include M&E)	98.3		98.3 (100)	96.6	94.2	98.2	99.1	96.7	95.9	98.5	99.1	96.6	94.3
7+ GCSE A* - C	98.3		96.6 (98.3)	94.0	91.4	97.1	98.1	95.8	94.4	N/A	98.1	94.0	90.5
7+ GCSE A* - C (include M&E)	98.3		96.6 (98.3)	93.5	90.5	96.8	98.1	95.0	93.6	97.0	98.1	93.5	89.9
7+ GCSE A* - B	89.0		84.7 (86.2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	90.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.8	N/A	
7+ GCSE A* - B (include M&E)	88.1		82.2 (83.6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	89.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.8	N/A	

*NI Average used is Grammar School statistics from DENI performance tables*

**\*Please note: DENI have not collected or published benchmark statistics for school performance for the 2020-2022 public examination series.**

**Year 10 Pupils - Key Stage Three Levels in Communication and Using Mathematics  
2024/25**

<b>Key Stage 3 Level</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>Level 5 (% of Year 10 Pupils)</b>		5.8%
<b>Level 6 (% of Year 10 Pupils)</b>	7.5%	20%
<b>Level 7 (%of year 10 Pupils)</b>	92.5%	74.2%

**Year 12 Pupils**

Number of pupils in Year 12 in September 2024	119	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	0
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**GCSE Results Overall 2024/25**

% Entered for 7 or more subjects	99.2	% Entered for 5 or more subjects	100
% Achieving grades A*-C	98.3	% Achieving grades A*-C	98.3

## GCSE Results by subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C		D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	25	36.0	72.0	92.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	69	23.2	72.5	94.2	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Business Studies	36	25.0	75.0	91.7	94.4	97.2		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry	44	36.4	65.9	90.9	95.5	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Design and Technology	14	21.4	71.4	78.6	92.9	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Drama	5	0.0	40.0	80.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Language	117	34.2	88.0	99.1	99.1	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Literature	118	31.4	82.2	96.6	99.2	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	26	26.9	76.9	80.8	88.5	96.2		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	44	59.1	93.2	97.7	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
German	15	26.7	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
History	52	38.5	78.8	90.4	96.2	98.1		98.1	98.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Home Economics	18	5.6	61.1	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Information Technology	15	40.0	86.7	86.7	93.3	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	118	30.8	76.7	95.0	98.3	99.2		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics Further	49	53.1	91.8	95.9	98.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Music	17	29.4	88.2	94.1	94.1	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physics	56	39.3	76.8	96.4	98.2	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	69	23.2	72.5	82.6	89.9	94.2		97.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Science - Double	56	26.8	71.4	87.5	94.6	98.2		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spanish	64	37.5	76.6	84.4	98.4	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sport/PE Studies	19	42.1	84.2	94.7	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>92.7</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>99.1</b>		<b>99.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
RS Short Course	49	57.1	85.7	87.8	98.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Year 13 and 14 Pupils

Number of pupils in Year 13 in September 2024	107	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	2
Number of pupils in Year 14 in September 2024	91	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	0
Total number of pupils	198	Total number of pupils	2

### Year 13 AS Level Results by Subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	3	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	38	42.1	63.2	73.7	89.5	100.0	100.0
Business Studies	31	38.7	74.2	93.5	96.8	100.0	100.0
Chemistry	29	24.1	44.8	58.6	82.8	93.1	100.0
Design and Technology	5	40.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Literature	32	59.4	90.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	4	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	32	75.0	90.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
German*	5	60.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Health & Social Care	11	18.2	72.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
History	35	62.9	82.9	94.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Home Economics	5	40.0	80.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Information Technology	5	60.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	36	55.6	72.2	86.1	94.4	100.0	100.0
Moving Image Art*	3	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Music	1	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physics	20	50.0	65.0	75.0	80.0	90.0	100.0
Politics	23	60.9	87.0	95.7	95.7	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	7	42.9	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spanish	8	75.0	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Collaboration subject

### Year 14 A Levels

Number of pupils in final year of A Level Course	% of Pupils achieving	
	3 or more passes at Grades A*-C	2 or more passes at Grades A *-E
91	90.1	100

### Year 14 A Level results by Subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	6	50.0	50.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	26	19.2	46.2	69.2	80.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Business Studies	12	0.0	33.3	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<b>Chemistry</b>	31	16.1	41.9	64.5	80.6	87.1	96.8	100.0
<b>Design and Technology</b>	8	0.0	25.0	62.5	75.0	87.5	100.0	100.0
<b>English Literature</b>	26	26.9	80.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>French</b>	5	0.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Geography</b>	16	31.3	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>German*</b>	1	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>	7	0.0	57.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>History</b>	23	52.2	73.9	95.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Home Economics</b>	4	0.0	25.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Information Technology</b>	7	14.3	57.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Mathematics</b>	38	21.1	71.1	84.2	97.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Mathematics Further</b>	6	0.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Media Studies*</b>	8	0.0	25.0	62.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Moving Image Art*</b>	4	0.0	0.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Music</b>	2	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>PE (Btech)*</b>	2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Physics</b>	17	11.8	41.2	82.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Politics</b>	16	6.3	50.0	81.3	93.8	93.8	100.0	100.0
<b>Religious Studies</b>	10	30.0	40.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Spanish</b>	7	28.6	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>282</b>	20.2	56.4	83.0	94.7	97.9	99.6	100.0

\* collaboration subject

### **School Leavers' Destinations 2024/25)**

<b>2024-2025</b>	
<b>Number of Leavers</b>	117
<b>Higher Education</b>	70% (82 pupils)
<b>Further Education</b>	5% (6 pupils)
<b>Another School</b>	14.5% (17 pupils)
<b>Employment</b>	2.5% (3 pupils)
<b>Unknown/Gap/Other</b>	8% (9 pupils)

### **Annual Attendance Rate (all pupils)**

Starthearn School annual attendance rate for year 2024 / 2025 – 94.1%

## **CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE**

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is a vital aspect of the educational provision at Strathearn. Formal timetabled careers modules (employability) are included in the Learning for Life and Work programme for Years 8 - 12 and as a distinct subject (Careers) for Years 13 and 14. Years 10 and 12 pupils are encouraged to complete personal career plans.

Careers advice and guidance are provided on an individual basis from Year 10 upwards where relevant, or when requested. The School has a Head of Careers who is available for consultation by the students throughout the school day, and by parents and pupils at Parent Consultations (Form 3 – U6th) and Parent Information Evenings. Structured introductory and on-going visits to the Careers Suite take place from Year 8. Year 10 has a half-day conference on career planning which involves guidance on choosing GCSE subjects, completing a career profiling questionnaire and learning about current labour market information. All girls and their parents have the opportunity to have formal meetings with the Teaching & Learning VP, Senior Teachers, Head of Careers, Careers Department staff or Form 3 Tutors in January/February to help pupils choose GCSE subjects. The Head of Careers reviews all subject choice Forms in the context of the pupils stated Career aspirations.

Pupils who wish to make choices to their GCSE or AS/A Level choices during the course of their GCSE or A Level studies are required to discuss the implications of their change with the Head of Careers.

Close links are maintained with a range of NI employers and the NI Careers Service; all pupils in Year 12 have a formal careers guidance interview with a Careers Adviser from the Department of the Economy. In addition, the DEL Careers Adviser delivers talks on post-14, post-16 and post-18 choices for years 10, 12 & 14 respectively.

Subject choice/post Key Stage talks are also delivered to Years 10 and 12 by Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning) and Head of Careers.

Students in Years 13 and 14 are encouraged to attend relevant Professional and University Open Days, subject specific conferences and Higher Education Fairs. In recent years these have mainly been completed via webinars; however, face-to-face opportunities are becoming more available. Year 14 students have a half day workshop on Interview skills and also have the opportunity to participate in a formal interview situation. Informal interview workshops are also held in School for girls applying to medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, teaching and other healthcare related courses. All pupils can have practice interviews with the Head of Careers. Some universities conduct online interviews others have face-to-face interviews. Year 14 students have the opportunity to complete online interviews in School or from home.

External speakers are regularly invited to talk to pupils in Years 12 and 13 about a range of career opportunities. The vast majority of our Sixth Form leavers proceed to Higher Education Institutions in Northern Ireland and Great Britain. In recent years a few pupils have gone on to study in Eire, the USA and Europe and our girls have also been successful in securing places on apprenticeship and higher apprenticeship programmes.

*(The Careers calendar, which is available on the school website, has more details of events which are running throughout the year)*

## **SCHOOL–COMMUNITY LINKS**

The School continues to maintain strong and effective channels of communication with its immediate stakeholders, ensuring that parents, pupils, staff, governors, and members of the wider community remain fully informed of school developments.

Communication is supported through a range of electronic methods, including email correspondence, social media platforms, online newsletters, webinars, and telephone meetings. These systems enable timely updates, reinforce transparency, and ensure that all members of our school community are kept well informed of key events, achievements, and notices.

The School has further enhanced its online presence through the regular updating of its website. The website serves as a central hub for information, providing access to school news, upcoming events, academic achievements, policies, and support materials for parents and pupils. This continues to strengthen our commitment to accessibility and open communication.

Charitable contributions remain a significant part of school life. Throughout the year, the School participates in internal charity events, raising considerable funds for a range of local, national, and international charities. In addition to financial contributions, staff and pupils also support community initiatives through the donation of goods and groceries, notably for organisations such as *The Storehouse*. Each House within the School is linked to a named charity, and pupils take an active role in organising and participating in fundraising activities through House-led events. These initiatives help foster a culture of service, empathy, and social responsibility among pupils.

### **Links with the World of Work**

The School continues to place strong emphasis on developing meaningful links with the world of work in order to broaden pupils' understanding of career pathways and equip them with essential skills for future employment. As part of the Learning for Life and Work (LLW) programme at Key Stages 3 and 4, pupils have regular opportunities to engage with a wide range of external agencies and professionals. These include business organisations such as Young Enterprise, voluntary and charitable groups including Love for Life and the Simon Community, as well as statutory services such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Through talks, workshops, and interactive sessions, pupils gain valuable insights into career routes, workplace expectations, and personal development.

Entrepreneurship and enterprise education form an integral part of the LLW curriculum, enabling pupils to explore business concepts, develop creativity, and understand the skills

required for leadership and entrepreneurship. These experiences are further enriched at Sixth Form level through an expanded programme of external engagement. Sixth Form students participate in voluntary work within local primary schools, community groups, and nursing homes, contributing positively to the wider community while developing key interpersonal and organisational skills.

Additional opportunities include peer mentor training, which supports leadership development, as well as a comprehensive programme of careers talks delivered by university representatives, employers, alumni, and industry specialists. Year 13 students undertake a formal work experience placement, enabling them to observe workplace environments first-hand and refine their career interests. Year 14 pupils participate in mock interviews, designed to prepare them for future academic, apprenticeship, or employment interviews.

The School continues to strengthen formal business partnerships through initiatives such as the *SistersIN* programme, which offers senior pupils structured opportunities to work with female business leaders. This programme enhances pupils' confidence, leadership capabilities, and understanding of professional life, while also expanding the School's network of industry connections.

We remain deeply appreciative of the many individuals and organisations who give generously of their time, expertise, and support. Their contributions play an invaluable role in broadening our pupils' knowledge of the world of work and supporting their transition to further education, training, and employment.

## **Sport**

### **Aims**

Strathearn aims to contribute to the physical development of each pupil through the promotion of skill acquisition and competence in a range of physical activities and to contribute to the social education of the individual by providing opportunities for pupils to co-operate with one another.

Additionally, we promote enjoyment through participation and help pupils understand the positive contribution of exercise to personal health and fitness.

Strathearn also encourages its pupils to make active, creative and purposeful use of their leisure time and through a varied inter-school competitive programme, prepare individuals and teams to experience a sense of satisfaction and achievement.

### **Programme of Study**

**At Key Stage 3**, pupils have a time allocation of 1 hour and 45 minutes.

In Year 8, pupils experience the following activities: gymnastics, dance, hockey, swimming, netball, athletics, tennis, rounders and minor games.

In Year 9, the programme is further developed.

In Year 10, in addition to the activities taught in Year 9, badminton is introduced as well as an introductory unit on health-related fitness and use of the fitness suite.

**At Key Stage 4**, pupils have a time allocation of 1 hour and 10 minutes.

In Years 11 and 12, pupils engage in a thorough health-related fitness component involving aerobics, use of the fitness suite and fitness awareness. Other selected activities include basketball, volleyball, badminton, rugby, orienteering, tennis, athletics, cricket and rounders. Physical Education is offered as a GCSE option; where both theoretical and practical aspects of selected physical activities are studied in depth.

### **Extra-Curricular Programme**

A comprehensive extra-curricular programme complements the core activities taught at the key stages. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to participate in the following team and individual activities:

In Years 8-10 ~ hockey, netball, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, dance, football, cricket, volleyball and table-tennis.

In Years 11-14 ~ hockey, netball, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, dance, football, cricket, volleyball, table-tennis and fitness.

Those pupils who have a keen interest in swimming, horse riding, golf, squash and trampolining are supported by the Physical Education Department and represent the school in competitive events.

## **Sports Facilities available to Pupils of the School**

### Sports Hall, Gymnasium and Fitness Suite

The School has a large, purpose-built Sports Hall, funded entirely by parental contribution. Accommodation within the Sports Hall is flexible and allows for: an indoor hockey pitch; five badminton courts; indoor tennis court; netball; volleyball; basketball, with provision for gymnastics.

A fully equipped Gymnasium complements the use of the Sports Hall and a state-of-the-art Fitness Suite completes the indoor sports accommodation.

### Outdoor Facilities

One synthetic and two all-weather hockey pitches; athletics track including a double long jump pit with tartan track run-up and caged throwing area. There are a total of six astro turf tennis courts on site.

### Outside School

Access to the CI Sport & Leisure synthetic hockey pitch, adjacent to the school, is available for both junior and senior teams and this is in addition to the tennis facilities if required. Swimming takes place at Templemore Baths and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre.

## PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT 2024/25

**Average attendance for 2024/25:** 97.1%

**Penrhyn enrolment:** 132 (at start of September), 134 pupils (by end of Summer Term)

### PREP 7 SENIOR SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

Strathearn	21
Bloomfield	1
Down High	1
Dundalk Grammar	1
Methodist College	1
Sullivan Upper	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

### STAFFING

#### Retiring staff:

Mrs Tricia Devlin (Prep 4)

Mrs Clare Shouldis (Classroom Assistant)

Mrs Rachel McCance (Classroom Assistant)

#### Maternity Leave:

Mrs Claire Galloway (from March 2024), covered by Mrs Emily Devlin

### ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Parent Teacher Consultations took place face to face in October 2024 and March 2025, by appointment. Prep 6 parents also were also offered a further meeting in June 2025 to provide an update on SEAG preparation.

Written school reports containing standardised assessment data were provided to parents twice in the year (January and June). The January report was slightly altered to provide a shorter summary than in previous years.

Prep 1 and 2 undergo continuous play-based learning assessments, together with ELS (phonics) Standardised assessments (using the GL assessment suite) were completed by pupils in Prep 3 – Prep 7) as follows:

	PREP 3			PREP 4			PREP 5			PREP 6			PREP 7		
	AUT	SPR	SUM												
<b>CAT</b>			X	X			X			X			X		
<b>PTE</b>			X			X			X			X	X		X
<b>PTM</b>			X			X			X			X	X		X
<b>NGRT</b>	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
<b>NGST</b>	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
<b>PASS*</b>	X			X			X			X			X		

### Average Scores

The average scores in these tests across the whole school are detailed below. An average score being SAS 100, with the average band being SAS 90 – 110. Strathearn Prep pupils are scoring at the top end of this average band, and in reading, are tipping into the ‘above average’ band.

	2024 - 25
<b>CAT Cognitive Ability Test</b>	111
<b>PTE Progress Test in English</b>	110
<b>PTM Progress Test in Maths</b>	106
<b>NGRT Reading Ability</b>	111

### Prep 4 – 7: SUMMER CHECK INS - TEACHER MARKED ASSESSMENTS

In addition to summer GL assessments, in previous years Prep 4 – 7 completed internal exams in the summer term in:

Literary – Comprehension, Grammar, Spelling, Creative Writing

Maths – Number facts, arithmetic

World Around Us

As a result of observations of increased pupil anxiety in the 2024-23 exam season, staff discussion and feedback from parents, the decision was taken to reduce the number of assessment taking place and focus on check-ins for areas that aren’t tested by GL assessments. Pupils in Prep 7 sat general papers in English, Maths and World Around us in order to give them experience of exams in preparation for senior school.

	PREP 4	PREP 5	PREP 6	PREP 7
<b>English - Spelling</b>	X	X	X	
<b>Maths – Number Facts</b>	X	X	X	
<b>English – General paper</b>				X
<b>Maths – General paper</b>				X
<b>World Around Us</b>				X

## **SPORT**

Pupils in the Prep Department participated in a wide range of activities as part of their Physical Education Programme, including hockey, swimming, athletics, netball, rounders, cross-country, gymnastics, tennis, and dance. The PE Department also offered a number of extra-curricular clubs to further enhance pupils' skills and interest in sport. These included cross-country (P6-P7), hockey (P6-P7), athletics (P6-P7), and cricket (P6-P7).

Throughout the year, pupils had the opportunity to compete in various sporting events at inter-form, inter-house, and inter-school levels. Teams from Penrhyn participated in athletics, hockey, cricket, cross-country, and swimming competitions. This year we have also assisted with the set up of a Prep Sport league with football and hockey tournaments already taken place and netball and cricket still to come.

In addition to external competitions, the school hosted several internal events, including the inter-house hockey, netball, athletics, and rounders competitions, as well as the Swimming Gala for pupils in P3-P7 and KS1 and 2 Sports Days. Parents were invited to join in the celebrations, and the pupils demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and determination, competing with great spirit. These events continue to be a highlight of the school year, fostering both individual achievement and a sense of team spirit.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY LINKS**

£2,0360.10 was raised over the course of the year for the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance through a variety of events, such as the Prep 7 Christmas Roadshow, Christmas Jumper Day and the retiring collection at the Prep school Carol Service.

## **EVENTS (a selection from the past year)**

- Prep 1 – 4 Nativity (December 2024)
- The Choir sang at the Strathearn Carol Service and two P7 pupils read lessons.
- The Prep Department had their own Carol Service for the first time
- World Book Day (March 2024)
- Prep 5 – 7 Play – Oliver (March 2025)
- Prep 1 – 4 Easter Bonnet Parade (March 2025)
- Prep 7 Amsterdam Trip (May 2025)
- Prep 6 Carlingford Residential Trip (May 2025)
- Prep 4 – 7 Summer Musical Showcase (June 2025)
- Prize Morning – Guest speaker - Mrs India Chapman-Webb (June 2025)

## **PDMU**

All classes focused on mental health and well-being with activities to support the girls. The NSPCC PANTS programme was introduced to all year groups in the Spring Term and will run on an annual basis.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROVISION**

Speech and Drama Lessons in groups (available for P1 – P7)

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2024/25**

At present, the school's Board of Governors has a total of 18 members. The composition of the Board is determined in accordance with the provision of the 1989 Education Reform Order under a scheme of management approved by the Department of Education in June 1987. There are four main categories of membership:

### **1 Foundation Governors**

The Scheme of Management provides for the appointment by the Board itself of eight members, at least one of whom shall at the time of appointment be a parent of a pupil at the school. These appointees are elected at the Annual General Meetings of the School.

#### **Mrs Rosemary Bailie (Chair)**

Rosemary Bailie was appointed to the Board in July 2014 and was a manager in the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, recently retired. She has served as the designated governor for child protection and was appointed Chair in April 2025 and is a former Vice Chair. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Governing Bodies Association of voluntary grammar schools.

#### **Mrs Lynsey Mallon (Vice-Chair)**

Lynsey Mallon joined the Board in July 2009 and was Chair from June 2019 to March 2025. She is the designated governor for child protection has served as Chair of the Legal Committee. Lynsey qualified as a solicitor in 2004 and is a Partner in a leading Irish law firm. Lynsey is a former Head Girl of Strathearn and currently has two daughters at the school.

#### **Mrs Suzanne Allen (Vice-Chair)**

Suzanne Allen joined the Board in September 2021. She is a Project Manager with the Strategic Investment Board and has one daughter currently at the school. She was appointed Vice Chair in April 2025 and is Chair of the Prep Committee.

#### **Mrs Caroline Auchmuty**

Caroline Auchmuty is a businesswoman with over 25 years' experience in Human Resources, recently retired. She joined the Board in 1997 and is an Old Girl of Strathearn. Mrs Auchmuty is Chair of the Personnel Committee.

#### **Mr Wallace Forde MBE**

Wallace Forde is a chartered accountant and has served on the Board since February 1991. He is a former Chair and Vice-Chair and a former Chair of the Finance, Audit and Buildings Committee, and current Chair of the Health & Safety Committee. His two daughters are former pupils of the school.

### **Mr Norman McKeown**

Norman McKeown is a chartered accountant and businessman. He was appointed to the Board of Governors in January 2001 and is a former Chair and Vice-Chair and current Chair of the Finance, Audit and Buildings Committee. His two daughters are former pupils of the school.

### **Mr Ian Noad**

Ian Noad is a retired businessman and is a former Chair of the Board. He became a Foundation Governor in June 1997 when his term of office as an elected Parent Governor ended. He has served as Chair of the Health and Safety Committee and is current Chair of the Curriculum & Pastoral Committee. His two daughters are former pupils.

### **Mrs Patricia Stewart**

Patricia Stewart was elected as a Governor in April 2002 and was Chair from June 2014 to June 2019. She is a Non-Executive Director with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Chair of the charity RELATE, a lay member of the Tax Tribunal and Associate Consultant with the NHS Leadership Centre. Mrs Stewart has one daughter who is a former pupil of the school.

## **2 Nominated Governors**

These members are appointed to the Board on the nomination of the Department of Education;

### **Mr Jonathan Ireland**

Jonathan Ireland is Managing Director at global CEO advisory firm Consello, Prior to this, he was Co-Founder of Belfast-based corporate affairs firm Lanyon Group, which was acquired by Consello in October 2024. He has served as a Nominated Governor since March 2018 and serves on the Penrhyn, Personnel and Finance, Audit and Buildings Committees. He is Chair of the board of The Ulster Consort and also sits on the Boards of Skainos, Crimestoppers and the Grand Opera House Belfast.

### **Mr Christopher Wallace**

Christopher Wallace is a solicitor in the public sector. He has served on the board from March 2018 as a Nominated Governor of the Department of Education. He has several family members who are past pupils of the school is Chair of the Legal Committee of the Board.

### **Mr Scott Rodham-Boyd**

Scott Rodham-Boyd is a Chartered Manager and Management Consultant leading a transformational change programme within a large consultancy firm. He has served as a Nominated Governor since March 2018.

**Mr Ross Gillespie**

Ross Gillespie joined the Board in September 2021. He is an Executive Director with FinTrU and Head Coach at Swim Belfast.

**3 Parent Governors**

Two parents are elected by secret ballot by parents of the school to hold office for four years.

**Dr Gavin McCoubrey**

Gavin McCoubrey is a veterinary surgeon and was elected as a Parent Governor in June 2021. He has two daughters currently at the school.

**Mr Michael Hanna**

Michael Hanna is a senior civil servant and was elected as a Parent Governor in March 2022. He has one daughter currently at the school.

**4 Teacher Governors**

Two teachers are elected by ballot by teachers at the school.

**Ms Sally Young**

Sally Young joined the staff in September 2000. She is currently the Head of Department for PE and Assistant SENCO Co-ordinator.

**Mr Colin Jellie**

Colin Jellie joined the staff in May 2019. He is the Head of Religious Studies and a Form 3 tutor.

**5 Co-Opted Governors**

One governor has been co-opted to the full Board.

**Mr David White**

David White joined the Board in September 2024. He is a qualified Solicitor and has one daughter at Strathearn Prep Department.

Mrs Nicola Connery (School Principal) is also a member of the Board.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Staff changes at June 2025 included the following members of teaching staff who have moved on from Strathearn School.

Mrs A Blayney

Mrs P Devlin

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

Strathearn recognises the need to provide a secure learning and working environment for pupils and staff.

Visitors to the School are required to sign in at Reception and wear a Visitor's badge, if not accompanied by a member of staff.

All staff exercise a collective responsibility for the identification of any stranger. Both sites have a perimeter fence to improve security. In addition, the main campus has a CCTV network and controlled access on the doors.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/25**  
**REVENUE ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	%	2024 £	%
<b>INCOME</b>					
School budget share		4,780,354	81.8	4,187,736	74.9
EA-additional resources		316,046	5.4	713,647	12.8
Tuition fees		678,208	11.6	645,923	11.5
Other Income		66,134	1.1	42,529	0.8
		<u>5,840,742</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>5,589,835</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Employees - Teaching Staff		4,326,616	70.5	3,893,371	69.2
Employees - Non-Teaching Staff		1,146,993	18.7	1,044,372	18.6
Curriculum Costs		108,210	1.8	111,584	2.0
Examinations		64,014	1.0	65,560	1.2
Premises costs	1	340,471	5.6	350,361	6.2
Establishment costs		146,954	2.4	160,551	2.8
		<u>6,133,258</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>5,625,799</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<u>(292,516)</u>		<u>(35,964)</u>	

## BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2025

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible Assets	2	<u>16,084,630</u>	<u>16,601,113</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks		2,262	2,725
Debtors		364,007	701,318
Investments		1,615,888	1,558,547
Cash at bank and in hand		278,489	366,674
		<u>2,260,646</u>	<u>2,629,264</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<u>(746,845)</u>	<u>(1,045,305)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,513,801</u>	<u>1,583,959</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		17,598,431	18,185,072
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Designated School funds		1,615,888	1,558,547
Revaluation Reserve		2,100,000	2,100,000
Unrestricted funds	4	<u>13,882,543</u>	<u>14,526,525</u>
<b>SCHOOL FUNDS</b>		<u>17,598,431</u>	<u>18,185,072</u>

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1** Maintenance of buildings and grounds, purchase of non-instructional equipment, heat, light and power, cleaning, laundry and rent, rates and insurance.

### **2 Net book value**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Freehold land and buildings	15,915,094	16,415,962
Plant and equipment	24,506	25,575
Furniture and fittings	112,868	112,866
Motor Vehicles	<u>32,162</u>	<u>46,710</u>
	<u>16,084,630</u>	<u>16,601,113</u>

### **3 Unrestricted Funds**

At 31 March 2024	14,526,525	14,963,428
(Deficit) on school accounts	(292,516)	(35,964)
(Deficit)/Surplus on canteen account	(42,160)	(29,141)
Net interest receivable	57,341	45,264
School funds	278,987	328,061
Depreciation	(588,293)	(699,472)
Transfer to Designated Funds	<u>(57,341)</u>	<u>(45,651)</u>
	<u>13,882,543</u>	<u>14,526,525</u>