

KYLEMORE NURSERY SCHOOL ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2024/2025



Kylemore Nursery School

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Chair of the Board of Governors I am proud to present to you the School's Annual Report for the year 2024/2025.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Principal and all the staff for their commitment and dedication to the school. We are fortunate in having such a dedicated and talented staff to work with our children and I thank them, on behalf of the Board of Governors, for all the effort they put into providing a stimulating learning experience to support the growth of our children.

I also must thank you, the parents on behalf of the Board of Governors for your on-going and generous support for all the activities engaged in by the school. I look forward to your continued interest and support for the school.

I commend this report to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Carruthers

This report is produced by the Governors of Kylemore Nursery School and is an account of the work that we have undertaken in carrying out the responsibilities of the management of the school.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board is currently made up of seven voting members plus the school Principal who is a non-voting member.

EA Representatives -	Mrs N Carruthers (Chairperson)
	Mrs Chris Murdock (Vice Chairperson)
	Mr Nevin Oliver
Parents' Representative	Mr Niall McGill
	Mr Mark Crawford
Teachers' Representative	Mrs Louise Cavalleros
Principal	Mrs Hilary Hutchinson (Secretary)

We are pleased to inform you that our school's Board of Governors was officially reconstituted in May 2025 as part of the Department of Education's four-year governance cycle. This process ensures that our Board continues to reflect a balanced mix of skills, experience, and community representation.

The newly appointed Board includes representatives from parents, staff, the Education Authority, and the Department of Education. We are grateful to all outgoing governors for their dedicated service and warmly welcome our new and returning members.

The Board of Governors plays a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school, supporting school improvement, safeguarding standards, and ensuring accountability.

Reconstituted Governors 2025 -

EA Representatives -	Mrs N Carruthers (Chairperson)
	Mr Nevin Oliver
DE Representative -	Mrs Annika Clements
Parents' Representative -	Mr Mark Crawford (Vice Chairperson)
Teachers' Representative	Mrs Louise Cavalleros
Principal	Mrs Hilary Hutchinson (Secretary)

STAFF MEMBERS

Principal	Mrs Hilary Hutchinson
Teacher	Mrs Louise Cavalleros
	Mrs Heather George
Nursery Assistants	Mrs Nicole Keating
	Mrs Grace Chestnutt
	Mrs Bee Brown
Transition Support Worker	Mrs Agnieszka Szatan
Clerical Officer	Mrs Agnieszka Szatan
Building Supervisor	Mrs Grace Chestnutt

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Governors are required to meet at least once per term for a formal meeting of the full Board of Governors. The Governors have overall responsibility for the effective management of the school.

They have particular responsibilities in relation to: -

- The curriculum
- Appointment and dismissal of staff
- Admissions to the school
- School finance
- Maintenance and upkeep of the building
- Security of pupils and staff also the premises
- Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs
-

ETI INSPECTION - October 2024

In October 2024, Kylemore Nursery School underwent an inspection by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). The inspection report highlighted many strengths across the setting, recognising the dedication of staff and the high quality of provision for the children.

We are proud of the positive feedback received, which reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence in early years education. The full inspection report is available to view on the ETI website:

ETI Inspection Report - Kylemore Nursery School

ENROLMENT

The children enrolled in the school are selected in accordance with criteria approved by the Education Authority.

The Nursery can cater for 104 children, which is composed of:

2 x Part-time morning sessions 8:45am - 11:15am

2 x Part-time afternoon sessions 12:15 pm - 2:45pm

This year there were 99 children enrolled. The school had 58 target aged children, and 41 penultimate aged children enrolled. The school had two morning classes and two afternoon classes.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our nursery school has a comprehensive policy in relation to Child Protection. Staff and Governors attend training each year.

The teacher with specific responsibility for Child Protection is Mrs Hilary Hutchinson.

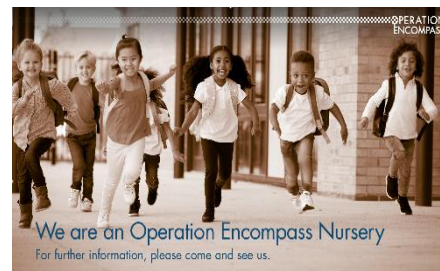
In her absence responsibility rests with Mrs Louise Cavalleros and Mrs Agnes Szatan. They are available should you have concerns regarding the welfare and protection of children at our school.

It is the policy of the school that all staff are regularly updated in Child Protection training and procedures and that, through the curriculum, all children are encouraged to be aware of their own safety. Our priority is to maintain the safety of all children at all times.

All staff and governors review the Child Protection policy regularly. They are aware of child protection issues and will respond using well-defined school procedures to 'concerns' raised by a child or an adult. The welfare of the child is our paramount consideration. The Principal reports termly to the Board of Governors in relation to Child Protection issues.

All parents receive information on the school's child protection policy and a link to the full school's child protection policy when their child starts school.

We are an Operation Encompass Nursery. Operation Encompass is a partnership between the Education Authority, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland and schools, and is aimed at supporting children who witness domestic violence or abuse in the home. If Police attend a domestic abuse call where children are present, they will contact the child's school to share this information with their safeguarding team and ensure the correct support can be put in place.



Security systems are in place to protect both pupils and staff. These include a buzzer entry system and video intercoms. All visitors to the school sign into the Visitors' Book.

All staff have been trained in first aid. Safeguarding policies have been revised and shared with the Board of Governors, staff and whole school community.

THE CURRICULUM

At Kylemore Nursery School, we're proud to have a dedicated team of qualified teachers and nursery assistants who work together to create a warm, welcoming, and stimulating environment for your child.

Our Principal and staff ensure that the school is always inviting and informative, helping children feel safe, curious, and ready to explore.

As an early years team, we carefully plan a rich pre-school curriculum that supports every child's development and meets their individual needs. Our curriculum is based on the Northern Ireland Pre-School Curriculum and focuses on six key areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Physical Development
- The Arts
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The World Around Us

Through play-based learning and meaningful experiences, we aim to give each child the best possible start in life.

At Kylemore Nursery School, our vision of *"Enriching the Lives of Children"* is at the heart of everything we do.

We focus on the whole child—supporting their emotional, social, and physical wellbeing through rich, hands-on experiences. From daily indoor and outdoor play to real-life activities like gardening and cooking, children are encouraged to explore, create, and grow.

Our regular Forest School sessions offer meaningful opportunities to connect with nature, build confidence, and develop resilience. These experiences are not just fun—they help lay the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

We believe that wellbeing is a shared responsibility. That's why we work closely with families and the wider school community to create a warm, inclusive space where every child can thrive.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We have a policy for SEN which is regularly reviewed. The Special Educational Needs coordinator is Mrs Hilary Hutchinson.

The governors and staff at the Nursery School believe that every child is unique and deserves access to a broad and balanced curriculum that acknowledges individual needs and supports each child in reaching their full potential. Children who may have Special Educational Needs (SEN) are identified and supported by the staff working closely with them. Ongoing communication with parents is maintained throughout all stages of the SEN Code of Practice, led by the class teacher and the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

During the 2024/25 school year, several children were on the SEN register. For these children, written Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) were developed, regularly reviewed, and discussed with parents, who were given the opportunity to contribute to and influence the planning process. Four children on the SEN register were referred to Educational Psychology for additional support. Three children were put forward for statutory assessment, and prior to leaving the nursery, two of them received their Statement of Special Educational Needs.

We understand that it can be difficult for parents to come to terms with the possibility that their child may be facing challenges. However, with early intervention and collaboration from all relevant agencies, many potential barriers can be addressed before the transition to Primary School.

This year we have also been fortunate to gain some support from the EA Primary Behaviour Support and Provision and funding from the PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION INCLUSION SUPPORT FUND (PSEISF)

Mrs. Hilary Hutchinson, the school's SENCo, successfully completed the Education Authority (EA) training as part of her ongoing professional development. In addition to her individual training, she led the whole staff in training sessions that contributed to the successful completion of the Tiny Learners Award, further enhancing the team's ability to support early years development.



Training completed by SENCo

- EA SEND Transformation Early Years
- EA SEND Graduated Response Framework training
- EA SEND Transformation School Engagement session
- EA training on the Graduated Response Training

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

During the 2024/25 academic year, the school received additional funding through the Extended Schools Programme. This funding was used to provide targeted Speech and Language support delivered by an external specialist. The speech and language therapist conducted initial screenings and delivered a combination of one-to-one and small group sessions throughout Terms 2 and 3.

A total of sixteen children participated in the intervention and made measurable progress. Parents were given the opportunity to meet with the therapist in person and received a written report summarising their child's progress at the end of the programme.

The funding also enabled a whole-school session led by music specialist Louise Kelly from Resilient Rhythms, focusing on emotional regulation through rhythm and movement, as well as developing speech sounds and incorporating mouth exercises to support language development.

COLERAINE EDUCATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

We gratefully acknowledge the funding received from the Department for Social Development (DSD) Neighbourhood Renewal programme. This support has enabled us to strengthen engagement with vulnerable parents and children within both the school and the wider community. With a focus on delivering needs-led programmes, the funding facilitated a range of enriching activities, including the 'Jump, Jiggle and Jive' programme, a performance by Mr Hullabaloo, and a Sensory Tales storytelling session. These initiatives have played a valuable role in promoting connection, creativity, and well-being among participants.

CHURCHLANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORTING FAMILIES THROUGH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The particular emphasis is on our Transition Support Worker developing transitions from preschool to primary and offering in-school support to vulnerable families with a view to improving life chances of children whose families live in the local Churchlands ward. There is also a focus on signposting parents to community events and facilities. Starting nursery school or Primary school can be a daunting experience especially for children from newcomer families and it is good to have a link person that parents and their children can identify with.

Our Transition support worker Agnes welcomes children and parents every morning creating a strong connection and support for parents.

During the school year she had facilitated monthly parent workshops with links to the pre-school curriculum and created and organised the lending library and activity packs.

The Transition support worker helped gather baseline assessments on all children at the beginning of year and supported children identified.

The Transition Support worker supported children in the cluster schools every Monday from October 2024 - May 2025.

ENRICHING THE CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE

At Kylemore Nursery School, we strive to make each child's experience as engaging and enriching as possible. Alongside our broad and stimulating curriculum, we have carefully planned a variety of special events and welcomed enrichment visitors to enhance the children's learning and enjoyment.

Throughout the year, Kylemore Nursery School hosted and participated in a variety of themed days and enrichment activities designed to enhance the children's learning experiences and foster community engagement.

Highlights included:

- **World Smile Day**
A joyful celebration encouraging kindness and positivity throughout the nursery.
- **Maths Week**
Children engaged in fun, hands-on maths activities that promoted early numeracy skills and problem-solving.
- **Halloween Fancy Dress Day**
Children and staff enjoyed dressing up in creative costumes and taking part in themed activities and games.
- **School Photographer Visit - October**
A professional photographer captured individual and group photos, creating lasting memories for families.
- **Book Week NI**
To promote a love of reading, our Transition Support Worker distributed library registration forms and helped families obtain library cards. This initiative supported early literacy and encouraged regular library use at home.
- **World of Owls Visit**
A fascinating visit from the World of Owls gave children the chance to learn about birds of prey up close, sparking curiosity and wonder about the natural world.

- **Nursery Rhyme Week**

Children celebrated classic and contemporary nursery rhymes through singing, storytelling, and themed activities that supported language development and rhythm awareness.

- **Anti-Bullying Week**

We participated in Anti-Bullying Week, embracing the theme "Choose Respect." Through age-appropriate discussions and activities, children were encouraged to show kindness, celebrate differences, and build respectful relationships with their peers.

- **Bringing Stories to Life - *Stick Man* and *Little Robin Red Vest***

As part of our storytelling enrichment, staff brought the beloved stories *Stick Man* and *Little Robin Red Vest* to life by creating immersive outdoor story settings.

- **Banyan Theatre Visit**

The Banyan Theatre Company brought stories to life with engaging performances of, captivating the children with live storytelling and puppetry

- **Let's Read Programme**

Sean and Amy from SureStart delivered engaging story and song sessions with each class, promoting early literacy and a love of books.

- **Woodwork Activity with Pre-School Children**

As part of our hands-on learning approach, pre-school children participated in a supervised woodwork activity, developing fine motor skills, creativity, and confidence through safe tool use.

- **Santa Run**

Children took part in a festive Santa Run, combining physical activity with holiday fun. The event was filled with laughter, movement, and excitement as children ran in their Santa hats and festive attire.

- **Christmas Party**

The children celebrated the festive season with a fun-filled Christmas Party. Activities included party games, a disco, a festive movie, and popcorn. It was a joyful day, and fun was had by all!

- **RSPB Big Bird Watch**

The nursery took part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch, offering a fantastic opportunity to spark children's curiosity about nature and develop their knowledge of local bird species.

- **Mental Health Week**

Activities throughout the week focused on promoting emotional well-being, helping children to recognise and express their feelings in healthy ways.

- **Safer Internet Day**

As part of our enrichment programme, the nursery participated in Safer Internet Day, introducing children to the basics of online safety through age-appropriate stories, songs, and discussions. The activities focused on being kind online, recognising trusted adults, and understanding the importance of asking for help. These early lessons help lay the foundation for safe and responsible technology use in the future.

- **Science Week**

Children engaged in hands-on experiments and investigations, encouraging curiosity, questioning, and early scientific thinking.

- **World Book Day**

We brought the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* to life! Props and resources were added to the forest area, and children took turns retelling the story in groups, making the experience interactive and memorable.

- **Sensory Tales Workshop**

Penultimate-year children and their parents were invited to attend an interactive storytelling session. This sensory-rich experience supported language development and family engagement.

- **Storytelling Week**

A celebration of stories through reading, role-play, and creative expression, helping to build children's listening and comprehension skills.

- **Random Acts of Kindness Day**

Children participated in simple acts of kindness, learning about empathy, sharing, and the joy of helping others.

- **Easter Egg Hunt**

The term ended with a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt in the school playground, bringing smiles and excitement to all.

- **Easter Hop Party with Energy to Burn (Penultimate Children)**

Penultimate-year children enjoyed a high-energy Easter Hop Party led by Energy to Burn. The session featured music, movement, and fun physical games designed to promote coordination, fitness, and festive cheer. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to celebrate Easter in an active and engaging way.

- **Sports Day Fun**

The children enjoyed a fantastic range of physical activities—from running and balancing to jumping—led by Coach Ronan from FitMinds. It was a joy to see their confidence grow as they embraced new challenges and supported one another with big smiles and cheers!

- **Teddy Bear Picnic Day in Flip's Forest**

To celebrate the end of the school year, children took part in a special Teddy Bear Picnic held in Flip's Forest. The day included a fun-filled teddy bear hunt followed by a picnic in the natural surroundings. It was a memorable outdoor experience that combined adventure, imagination, and celebration.

ENRICHMENT VISITORS

The children at Kylemore Nursery School are very fortunate to benefit from a wide range of enrichment visitors and programmes that enhance their learning and overall experience throughout the year. These opportunities support various areas of development, from physical activity and creativity to science, literacy, and emotional well-being.

Enrichment Visitors and Programmes Included:

- *Jump, Jiggle and Jive* - Weekly Dance Programme
- *World of Owls* - Educational animal encounter
- *Jo Jingles* - Music and movement sessions
- *Wee Critters* - Interactive animal experience
- *Banyan Theatre* - Live storytelling performances
- *Let's Read Programme* - In partnership with SureStart
- *Mr Hullabaloo* - Theatre performance for young children
- *Mini Professors* - Early science exploration sessions
- *Fit Minds* - Mental well-being and mindfulness activities
- *Sensory Tales* - Multi-sensory storytelling experiences
- *Energy to Burn* - Physical activity and movement sessions
- *Inspire Dance and Drama* - Creative expression through dance and drama
- *Resilient Rhythms* - Emotional regulation through rhythm and movement

In addition to these enriching experiences, we also celebrated key seasonal and cultural events with themed activities for Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day, helping children explore traditions and express appreciation for loved ones.



Enrichment Visitors



Enrichment Visitors



ENHANCING OUR CURRICULUM

Our school is committed to enhancing the curriculum by providing rich and meaningful experiences. We offer a Forest School programme, participate in Eco-Schools initiatives, promote emotional health and well-being, and engage in Shared Education to build connections and broaden learning opportunities.



FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAMME

From October to the end of the school year the pre-school aged children enjoyed fortnightly forest school sessions in Flip's Forest. Penultimate children started forest school from February 2025 onwards. During the year the children have enjoyed exploring the environment, making dens, learning about minibeasts, toasting tea cakes and learning about fire safety.

We're absolutely delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Birch Level Accreditation by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association! This is a fantastic milestone that celebrates our commitment to outdoor learning and connecting children with nature in meaningful, hands-on ways.

A huge thank you goes to Hilary Hutchinson, who led the application process with dedication and care, and to our entire staff team, whose enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork made this achievement possible. From planning sessions to embracing the great outdoors in all weathers, this has truly been a whole-school effort.

We're so proud of what we've achieved together and excited for the next steps in our Forest School journey.

EA BEING WELL DOING WELL PROGRAMME

This year, Kylemore Nursery School proudly joined the Education Authority's Being Well, Doing Well programme. Mrs. Hilary Hutchinson took on the role of our school's Mental Health Champion.

The programme gives us helpful tools, training, and resources to support the emotional health and wellbeing of everyone in our school community — children, staff, and families. It helps us reflect on what we're already doing well and find new ways to build a caring, supportive environment where every child can thrive.

Through our involvement in the Wellbeing: Being Well, Doing Well programme, we're building a nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported, and celebrated.

PEACEPLUS SHARED EDUCATION

This year, we were delighted to receive Peace Plus Shared Education Funding, which enabled us to begin a meaningful partnership with Ballysally Nursery School, led by Hilary Hutchinson. The collaboration has provided our children with a wide range of enriching experiences, including play and stay sessions at our partner school, family engagement events, and visits from a variety of enrichment visitors.

Highlights of the year included Beach School and Forest School sessions, where children explored, learned, and built friendships in natural outdoor settings. These shared experiences have been incredibly valuable, not only in supporting children's learning and development but also in fostering a strong sense of community between our schools.

We are proud of the positive relationships that have grown through this partnership and look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

ECO-SCHOOLS NI - GREEN FLAG AWARDED

Kylemore Nursery School is proud of its strong commitment to environmental education and sustainability. The school has successfully achieved multiple Eco-Schools Green Flags over the years.

This year, Hilary supported the submission for our latest Green Flag award, which highlighted the dedication of our staff and children.

We're delighted to share that Kylemore Nursery School has once again been awarded the Green Flag.



COMMUNICATION

A successful Open Day for prospective parents was held in December 2024, offering families the opportunity to explore the Nursery and meet staff.

Throughout the year, the school's website and Facebook page were regularly updated to keep families informed about events and activities. Additional curriculum information was shared via the Seesaw App, enhancing communication between home and school.

Parents received termly updates on their child's progress via Seesaw for Terms 1 and 2, and a written report in Term 3. Two parent-teacher meetings—one in person (December 2024) and one by phone (March 2025)—provided valuable opportunities to discuss each child's development.

HOME SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Home Learning Packs

This year, the school received funding through the *Getting Ready to Learn* Programme, which was used to enhance our lending libraries. As a result, children had weekly opportunities to borrow a variety of engaging home learning resources, including story sacks, physical activity packs, and maths packs. These resources supported continued learning at home and encouraged meaningful family involvement in children's early education.



Family Fridays

Throughout the year, our Transition Support Worker Agnes organised regular Family Fridays, offering valuable opportunities for family members to participate in workshops alongside their children. Each session focused on a different area of the pre-school curriculum, helping to strengthen the connection between home and school. These workshops were very well attended, with consistently high levels of parental participation—reflecting strong family engagement and a shared commitment to supporting children's learning and development.



Whole School Community Events for Friends and Family

At Kylemore Nursery School, we value the involvement of our wider school community and were delighted to host several events throughout the year that brought families together to celebrate learning and create lasting memories.

- **NI Parenting Week – October 2024**

We proudly supported this year's theme, "*For Every Family*," which aimed to empower parents and celebrate their vital role. To mark the occasion, we hosted a tea and coffee treat table on Friday, 26th October, providing a relaxed opportunity for parents to connect and feel appreciated.

- **Big Bedtime Read Performance**

Families were invited to enjoy a special performance by the *Banyan Theatre Company* as part of the *Big Bedtime Read* initiative. This engaging event promoted the importance of shared reading at home and was a magical experience for children and parents alike.

- **Forest Friends Family Session**

As part of our commitment to outdoor learning and family engagement, Agnes planned and led a special Family Forest Friends session. This hands-on experience allowed children and their families to explore nature together, fostering curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper connection with the natural environment.

- **Christmas Family Play & Stay and Santa visit**

Families were invited to join us for a festive Play and Stay session. It was a joyful celebration that brought our school community together we also had a special visit from Santa.

- **End-of-Year Family Picnic**

To celebrate the end of a successful school year, we hosted a joyful family picnic. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and reflect on the year's achievements.

- **Farewell Celebration for Pre-School Children**

We marked the transition of our pre-school children with a special farewell celebration. This event honoured their time at Kylemore Nursery School and wished them well as they move on to Primary School.



Christmas Family Play and Stay



Parenting Week 2024

Whole School Community Events



Community Links

We continue to build strong links with local services and schools to support children and families. As part of the 3+ Health Review, parents completed a questionnaire and met with the Health Visitor in nursery—a well-attended, collaborative approach to sharing key early development messages

Professional Support

A range of professionals supported both children and staff throughout the year, including:

- SENEYIS (Special Educational Needs Early Years Inclusion Service)
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Educational Psychology
- Their input was invaluable in identifying and addressing individual needs, ensuring every child received the support they required.

Links with Local Primary Schools

We have actively fostered strong relationships with our local primary schools to ensure smooth and confident transitions for our pre-school children. As part of this effort, our children had the wonderful opportunity to participate in Play and Stay sessions at:

- DH Christie Memorial Primary School
- Killowen Primary School
- St. John's Primary School

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of these schools for their warm hospitality and support. Your welcoming environments and engaging activities have made a lasting impression on our children and families.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

This year, we carried out several key improvements across the site to ensure a safe, functional, and welcoming environment for all.

Storm Damage and Tree Work: Following stormy weather, a tree was uprooted and safely removed by tree surgeons. Unfortunately, it caused damage to the front fence, which we are still waiting for the Education Authority to repair. In response to feedback from residents, trees in the forest area were also trimmed back.

Soft Surfacing and Outdoor Equipment: Part of the soft surfacing was replaced, and the old climbing frame was removed to make way for future outdoor improvements.

Communication Upgrades: In March 2025, EA installed a new digital phoneline and completed repairs to the intercom system at the front entrance.

TRANSITIONS

To ease the transition from Nursery to Primary education, nursery staff facilitate as many opportunities as possible for nursery pupils to visit local primary schools. This year the children enjoyed visiting Killowen Primary School, DH Christie Primary School and St. John's Primary school. We welcomed Primary 1 teachers from the following schools to visit children transition to them.

Transition reports were forwarded to all feeder primary schools and nursery/preschool regarding children who were moving on.

Children will transfer to a large number of primary schools and to other preschool settings in September 2025:

MOVING TO PRIMARY SCHOOL	Foundation stage
DH Christie Memorial Primary School	10
Killowen Primary School	17
St. John's Primary School	10
Millburn Primary School	1
Irish Society Primary School	2
Carnalridge Primary School	1
Damhead Primary School	2
Macosquin Primary School	3
St.Malachy's Primary School	6
Bushvalley Primary School	1
Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School	1
Harpurs Hill	2
St. Brigid's Primary School	1
Deferred Primary School	1
Total number of pre-school children	58
MOVING TO PRESCHOOL SETTINGS	
Ballysally Nursery School	3
Ballymoney Nursery School	2
Sunshine Playgroup	1
Millstrand Nursery School	1
Millburn Playgroup	1
Termonaice Nursery Unit	1
Gaelscoil Vi Neill & Naiscoil	1
Castlerock Playgroup	1
Unknown	1
Returning to Kylemore	29
Total number of penultimate children	41

COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

The Governors are firmly dedicated to fostering the ongoing professional growth of all staff. Training is guided by clearly defined targets that align with the school's development plan, ensuring it is both meaningful and effective. This strategic approach supports Kylemore Nursery School in consistently delivering a high-quality, enriching environment for all children and their families.

A comprehensive programme of staff training was completed during the 2024/25 academic year. This aimed at enhancing staff skills and supporting continuous improvement across the Nursery.

This year, the entire staff team took part in the Reggio Inspire Conference, organised by the Early Years Organisation, gaining valuable insights into innovative, child-centred approaches to learning. In addition, all staff participated in Nursery School Cluster Training focused on developing digital skills, further enhancing their ability to integrate technology meaningfully into early years education.

Staff also successfully achieved the Tiny Learners Award, reflecting our strong commitment to continuous professional development and maintaining excellence in the care and education we provide.

Mrs. Szatan also took part in additional training on EA Literacy Toolkit alongside other schools she supports as part of her transition support role.

In addition, staff regularly engage in school-based meetings and participate in cluster group collaborations. These opportunities for reflection and shared learning ensure that all aspects of the nursery are continuously reviewed and updated to best meet the evolving needs of our pupils.

Mrs Hilary Hutchinson Principal and Teacher

Overview of Training completed:

- EA TPL Learning Through Play - Numeracy
- EA TPL Learning Through Play - Digital skills
- EA TPL Learning Through Play in the Nursery setting - Supporting children with SEND
- EA TPL Learning Through Play - Planning, Observation and Assessment
- NAACE ERF Framework
- Edis Information Roadshow for Nursery Schools

- Childnet - Safer Internet Day
- ETI Wellbeing Session
- Getting Ready to Learn - Oral Health
- NAHT Early Years conference
- Aspire Peaceplus - Information session
- ASPIRE Leadership Professional Learning - Leading a Highly Effective Shared Education Partnership

The Governors are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of staff to ongoing in-service training. This commitment reflects a strong culture of continuous professional development within Kylemore Nursery School. We view this as a clear indication of the staff's dedication to maintaining and enhancing the quality of education and care provided. The process of regular self-evaluation and reflection is central to our school development priorities and plays a vital role in sustaining high standards across all areas of practice.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Each year, the Principal, Staff, and Board of Governors collaborate to create our School Development Plan—a strategic document that guides all actions within our school community to ensure continuous improvement and progression.

Our development priorities are shaped by:

- Department of Education (DENI) requirements
- Guidance from the Education Authority
- Feedback from staff, governors, and parents

At the end of each academic year, we gather input through a comprehensive questionnaire. All responses are carefully reviewed and used to inform the evaluation of current action plans and to shape the focus for the upcoming year.

To support the implementation of our development goals, the principal strategically plans Baker Days and School Development Days in alignment with the identified priorities. These dedicated days provide valuable opportunities for staff training, reflection, and collaborative planning.

Together, we are committed to fostering a learning environment where every child can thrive.

BAKER DAY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2024/2025

The Department of Education allocated five Staff Development Days (SDD's) for the purposes of school improvement and school/staff development in 2024/25.

Baker Days	Date	Focus of Baker Days
Day 1	Wednesday 7th August 2024	Reggio Inspired Conference – Early Years Organisation
Day 2	Tuesday 20th August 2024	Staff Update – class organisation CSSC - Ethos and Vision workshop
Day 3	Wednesday 21st August 2024	ETI – Inspection Update Whole Staff Child Protection and Safeguarding Training Planning and classroom set up Review Staff Code of Conduct
Day 4	Thursday 22nd August 2024	First Aid refresher training Classroom set up indoors and outdoors.
Day 5	Friday 23rd August 2024	Final prep of classroom and set up for start of term. Class preparation
SDDs	Date	Focus of Staff Development
Day 1	Friday 27th September 2024	Recap Vision School Development Plan 2024 - 2025 – Action plans SEN Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review provision map - New information from SEN (Flowcharts) - SEN Register - Wellcomm Feedback Being Well Doing Well – Whole staff awareness session Continuous Provision Planners
Day 2	Wednesday 27th November 2024	Digital Skills Training – Joint partnership training with other nursery schools.
Day 3	Friday 3rd January 2025	Continuous Provision Planners
Day 4	Monday 14th April 2025	Continuous Provision Planners EA Being Well Doing Well Action Plan
Day 5	Monday 26th May 2025	Being Well Doing Well Training - Promoting Emotional Health and Wellbeing Professional Learning End of Year Staff Survey

STUDENTS

We are delighted to welcome students into our school community and are fully committed to supporting their growth, learning, and success.

This term, we were pleased to welcome four students from the following institutions as part of their placement or work experience programs:

- Coleraine Grammar School
- Northern Regional College
- Rutledge

Their enthusiasm and contributions have been greatly appreciated, and we hope their time with us has been both enriching and inspiring.

FINANCE

The delegate budget formula (calculated by age and number of pupils) is based on the School Census of the previous academic year and is used to determine the total delegated budget allocated to the school. The budget covers salaries, maintenance of the school and resources for the children. With effective teaching being the key impact on children's education, staff costs are the main expenditure of the school budget allocation. We are delighted that your children have the benefit of experienced and dedicated teaching and support staff who are committed to providing high quality education for your children.

FINANCIAL REPORT - See Appendix 1

Below are the figures for this year - 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Total Budget £263, 342

(Including staff costs, heating, rates, internal and grounds maintenance, equipment and sundries)

The school's budget remains healthy and aligned with its strategic goals, enabling key investments to enhance the learning environment. A major upcoming purchase includes an interactive board, which will significantly enrich the digital learning experience across classrooms.

In addition, plans are underway to enhance outdoor learning through the installation of new equipment and playground markings. This initiative aims to create a more engaging and dynamic educational experience for all pupils, fostering creativity, exploration, and physical activity in a well-equipped outdoor setting.

These developments reflect the school's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, innovative learning opportunities for every student.

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

Parents and carers are kindly asked to consider making a voluntary contribution of £12 per month. These contributions help cover the daily cost of snack food, incidental classroom items, and enrichment experiences such as visits from external providers.

An annual audit of the School Fund account is conducted to ensure transparency and accountability. This audit has been completed for the current year by Mr. R. Russell, and the Audit Record is available for inspection at the school.

The Board of Governors sincerely appreciates the generous support from families. Without these contributions, many of the enriching experiences we offer would not be possible.

We are also pleased to share that recent funds have been used to enhance our outdoor learning environment. A new shelter has been constructed and seamlessly connected to the existing sand shed, providing a more flexible, weather-protected space for outdoor activities.

FINALLY

The Board of Governors wish to record our thanks and acknowledge the principal and each member of staff for their excellence, dedication and commitment to the school over the past year.

We also thank all parents and carers, for your support and we look forward to your continued interest in Kylemore Nursery School. We will continue to develop our nursery school to be a place of learning and support not only for children but also for parents and local community to ensure the best provision to enrich the lives of all the children who attend our Nursery School.