

## What is the School Development Plan?

The School Development Plan (SDP) is a strategic plan for improvement. The SDP contains the long term priorities and ambitions, which the school wishes to work towards and also short term actions, which will ensure that the long term priorities are achieved. Digital copies of our new School Development Plan (2025-2028) will soon be available from the school website. [www.bushvalleyps.co.uk](http://www.bushvalleyps.co.uk).

## School Leadership

- The Board of Governors were reconstituted in September 2025. We were delighted to welcome Mrs H Crowe, Mrs D Irwin & Mr G McKechnie to the Board of Governors of Bushvalley.
- School Policies were ratified by Governors and shared with Staff and Parents/Guardians.
- Staff attended various courses and training throughout the year.

## Parent Comments

Taken from Parent Survey - June 2025

*"Bushvalley is a very warm welcoming school. Where the children are at heart of everything they do. I have found they aim to meet the individual needs of each child and support in whatever way they can."*

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*"Outstanding learning and pastoral care provided to all pupils."*

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*"An overall fantastic school, with a super staff group. Could not be happier that my children attend Bushvalley PS."*

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*"The school does not compare to any other school in the area. After school activities, staff, school dinners, the list could go on,*



## School Community

### Communication

Parents/Guardians were kept updated with school events via ParentMail, the school monthly newsletter, school website and social media.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parents/Guardians were invited to attend parent/teacher consultation meetings in September/October and March.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA continued to work hard and organised very successful school events such as; Quiz Sheet, Christmas Raffle, Table Quiz, Easter Afternoon Tea & Tractor Run & Fun Day. The PTA raised a fantastic £10,498.56 in the academic year 2024/2025.

### Community Events

The school supported local community events such as, sporting tournaments, Coleraine Music & Drama Festival and local competitions e.g. Road Safety Quiz, Credit Union Quiz.

### External Agencies

A close link continued with external agencies such as; Education Welfare Officer, Educational Psychologist, Social Workers/Services, RISE, Primary Behavioral Support & EA Literacy Support Service, SENIS and AAIS.

### School Events

Parents/Guardians were invited to the following school events; Harvest Morning for Grandparents, Health & Wellbeing Evening, Open-Evening, Christmas Concerts, PTA Events, Celebration of the Arts Evening, Sports' Day, Colour Run and our Annual Prize-giving Assembly.

### Surveys/Questionnaires

Surveys continued to be in place to seek the opinions of Parents/ Guardians, Pupils, Staff and Governors.

### Links with Pre-School and Post Primary

Links with See-Saw Playgroup continued throughout 2024/2025, with a special 'Christmas Campfires' event organized. Links with post-primary continued with opportunities for Key Stage 2 e.g. STEM Day & 'Take 5 Well-being Day' (Ballycastle High School), Rugby coaching (Coleraine Grammar & Dalriada).



# Bushvalley Primary School



## School Development Plan

## Parent Information 2025/2026

### What did we do last year?

A quick guide to some of the school improvements during the academic year 2024/2025

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## Child Centered Provision

**School Policies:** All School Policies were updated.

**Risk Assessments:** Whole-school detailed risk assessments continued to be in place ensuring the health and safety for all pupils, staff and visitors, as required.

**Attendance:** We continued to implement our Attendance Policy. Parents were notified if their child's attendance fell below 90% and 85%.

**Anti-Bullying:** The school continued to implement the Addressing Bullying Policy. As a school we celebrated 'Anti-Bullying Week' with activities such as; 'World Kindness Day', 'Odd Sock Day' and 'Friendship Friday'.

**Online Safety:** Key Stage 2 enjoyed an informative Internet Safety Workshop from CyberPals. The pupils also enjoyed a gaming morning (GodModex) and completed a whole school Internet Safety Competition.

**Pupil Voice:** The School Councillors were elected in September 2024. There were also pupil responsibilities within the roles of; Digital Leaders, Playground Buddies, School Librarians, Eco-Councillors and Sports' Captains.

**Active & Healthy School:** We enjoyed active-travel initiatives such as, Be Bright Be Seen Day and Walking Wednesdays. We were delighted to be presented with our Sustrans Silver Award in September 2024. We continued to expand our Extra-Curricular Programme, our new clubs included; Little Chefs, Run-tastic, Nature Rangers & Agri-Club. Primary 7 pupils participated in the Cycling Proficiency Programme. The children also enjoyed outdoor learning through school initiatives such as, 'Welly Wednesday' & 'Fresh Air Friday'.

**Eco-Schools:** Bushvalley was delighted to have maintained their Green Flag Award. This was presented to our Eco-Councillors in June 2025.

**School Trips:** The children enjoyed trips to venues such as, Rosepark Farm, Dunluce Castle, Castlewood Treetops (P5-P7), the Fire Station and Ballymoney Museum. P6/P7 went to Manchester for 3 days for their residential trip.

## Safeguarding & Child Protection

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated.
- All Staff and Governors received Child Protection training from Mrs L McCann (DT) in August 2024.
- Bushvalley continued to be an Operation Encompass school.
- Secure record keeping continued for Child Protection and Safeguarding Concerns.
- Child-Friendly Posters of the Safeguarding Team continued to be in place.
- All volunteers and external tutors continued to be vetted

## Pastoral Care

**Policies:** All pastoral care policies were updated as required.

**Fresh Little Minds & Helping Hands:** We continued our Fresh Little Minds Programmes, 'Relax and Regulate' and 'Sunrise'. Primary 5 received the 'Helping Hands' Programme'.

**Roots of Empathy:** Roots of Empathy continued for a third year with Primary 4.

**Destination Adolescence:** Primary 6 & Primary 7 received the Destination Adolescence Programme in Term 3.

**Children's Mental Health Week:** Children's Mental Health Week was celebrated in February 2025 with daily activities focusing on the 'Take 5' model; School Walking Bus, Fun with Fitness Feddy, Outdoor Learning and Fun With Drums

**Mental Health & Wellbeing:** Class Moodtackers continued to be used daily to track the children's mental health and wellbeing. PASS (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School) Assessments were also implemented.

**Being Well Doing Well:** Bushvalley commenced its second year as a 'Being Well Doing Well' School and received school training in 'Breavement'.

**Mental Health First Aiders:** Mrs L McLaughlin & Mrs E Getty received Mental Health First Aid Training.

**First Aid:** Mrs R Ramsay, Mrs C Irwin, Mrs Z McNabney & Mrs E Bartlett continued as the school First Aiders.

**Chats & Natters:** We commenced a new 'Chats & Natters' imitative with Mrs M McKenna, a trained school councillor, support the wellbeing of our pupils.

## Teaching & Learning

### Literacy

The creative writing scheme continues to be implemented from P1-P7. The Accelerated Reader Programme (P4-P7) and Reading Eggs (P1-P3) continued successfully through funding from the PTA.

### Numeracy

Our new Busy Ants Numeracy Scheme was gradually implemented throughout 2024/2025 from P1-P7. Mathletics and Mathseeds continued to be provided for the children through PTA funding.

### ICT

A set of new school Chrome Books (30) were purchased through funding from the PTA and School Council Funds.

### WAU

Outdoor Learning continued to be enhanced through the development of our new school polytunnel. Bushvalley was accredited as a Forest School by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association. Mrs Z McNabney & Mrs C Johnston successfully completed their Level 2 training.

### Special Educational Needs

Mrs C Irwin continued as the school SENCo during 2024/2025. The following school interventions continued to be in place; Literacy & Numeracy Booster Sessions, Reading Partners, Learning Support (Wednesday) and 'O My Word' (RISE). Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Screener Tests were taken with P4-P7 and Pupil Profiles were put into place as required. All staff received training from Dyslexia NI in August 2024. All pupils on the SEN Register have the new Pupil Learning Plan (PLP) in place.

### Languages

Spanish continues to be implemented throughout the whole school with P1-P7.

### PE

The school continued to implement the PE Scheme from Core NI.

### RE

The school continues to teach RE through the 'BibleTime' resources. Assemblies throughout 2024/2025 continued weekly on a Tuesday morning.

### Assessment

The schools' assessment data continued to be utilised to monitor pupil progress. Internal levelling continued for Literacy, Numeracy and UIC (P1-P7).

