

# Roe Valley IPS

Limavady

## The History of Roe Valley Integrated Primary School

Roe Valley IPS opened in 2004 with 20 children. The first year was very positive with lots of support from the local community of Limavady. In 2005 the school was looking forward to a new and exciting 2<sup>nd</sup> year with approximately 46 pupils. However we were stopped in our tracks with a fire in the school hall the night before the school was due to open for the new term. This disaster turned into a positive with outstanding support from the Gorteen House Hotel who provided one of their function halls to be used as the new P1 classroom. Oakgrove IPS in Derry housed the rest of our children until the school was able to open for business. During that year we operated with two mobile classrooms where the children were taught and then had lunch at their desks! These were some of the best days in Roe Valley IPS with staff, governors and parents and friends all working together to make sure RVIPS remained operational. Since then the school has grown from strength to strength.



We have had many ups and downs primarily because of the temporary second hand nature of our accommodation. 2013 was particularly interesting when our assembly hall/canteen was demolished to facilitate the building of a new modular classroom, offices and assembly hall/canteen. However it was discovered that the land was sliding and was not suitable for the new build.

We spent a year without our canteen/assembly hall, no staffroom, one less classroom and some interesting toilet facilities! This again turned into a positive when the Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, visited our school and saw the conditions we were living with. He made an announcement that Roe Valley would receive £2.5million to build a new school! Our children, parents, staff and governors were over joyed at this news. With the help and support of NICIE and a variety of consultants we finally moved in to our modern, spacious new building in September 2014.

<http://roevalleyintegrated.com>

The start of the school term began with a huge birthday party to celebrate 10 years of RVIPS. The children enjoyed a wonderful birthday party with a barbeque, bouncy castle, face painting, magician and a variety of sporting activities. Some of the children were quoted as saying "This was the best day of my life!". We celebrated the official opening of our new building on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014, the parents and invited guests were treated to a performance by our children celebrating integration in our school.

The future looks very bright for RVIPS. We are enjoying learning and playing in our new environment. Our facilities have increased and we are making really good use and appreciating the beautiful new Primary 1 classroom, the wonderful spacious assembly hall/canteen, the professionalism of our office space, the new and brightly coloured toilets, the stimulating learning support room and multi-purpose room! We have a huge field where the new school will be built, but in the meantime the children are enjoying playing and running about in the open space which they have never had before.

Roe Valley's success is due to having wonderfully dedicated, highly committed hard working staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the children receive the best education possible and that they experience a child-centred education where all pupils are happy and achieve their full potential. We are looking forward to an exciting and enriched future.

