

St. Mary's Parish Primary School

Bryanstown, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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Príomhoide – Philip Ward • Leas Phríomhoide – John Weir • Roll No.: 20205G

Annual Report from Board of Management – June 2017

Our School:

St Mary's Parish Primary School has 1103 students, 58 teachers, 11 SNAs and 9 ancillary staff.

Purpose of the Annual Report:

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a summary of the Board's work for the school year just ending. This report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school website www.smpps.ie, the various newsletters issued by the school, the information booklet issued to all new parents and any other information provided to parents on all other occasions. The Board of Management of St. Mary's Parish Primary School has the responsibility of overseeing the running of the school.

Structure of the Board:

- Two nominees of the patron, Bishop Michael Smith.
- Two parent nominees, a mother and a father, elected from parents of students attending the school
- A teacher nominee, elected by teachers in the school.
- The school principal.
- Two members from the wider community.

The current Board will manage the school until November 2019. Throughout the school year the Board held 5 meetings.

Our Ethos:

St. Mary's Parish Primary School is a Catholic school and aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupils: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people.

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic school provides Religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

This past year our Catholic ethos was evident in many ways including the following:

- Diocesan Educational Team visit on 24th January
- First Penance on 8th and 9th March
- First Communion on 7th and 14th May
- Confirmation on 28th May
- School masses and gatherings to celebrate the beginning and end of the school year, and also at Christmas and Easter

We are also very lucky to have Fr Phil, Fr Joe and the Franciscan sisters visit the school weekly and we thank them for their huge contribution to the life and spirit of the school.

School Activities and Achievements:

The following are but a selection of activities and achievements supported by the Board over the course of this school year:

- Run Around the World fundraiser and year long activity
- Halloween Dress Up
- Maths Week
- Dublin's Fittest Primary School - Winners of the invited guests section.
- Girls Soccer: Football Association of Ireland Louth Champions.
- Girls GAA: Cumann na mBunscoil Louth Football Champions: Winners of Corn Oriel October 2016. And winners of the "Sciath Mhic Chionnaith Girls' Urban League".
- Hurling Cumann na mBunscoil Champions.
- Qualified for the All Ireland Spikeball finals which were held in Limerick.
- Athletics / Community Games County final: 7 pupils from 4th / 5th class represented the school in u-12 100m & 600m events in Lourdes Stadium 4 June. Heats were held in school the previous week .
- Green Schools: (January 2017) Selected as a Model School for the Water theme of the Green Flag programme.
- Walk on Wednesday: (October 2016 - May 2017) 90% Participation rate. 11% overall reduction in number of children regularly travelling to school by car.
- School Choir took part in the Drogheda Youth Choral Festival in the Barbican in November 2016.
- Science Week November 2016.
- Discover Primary Science and Maths Plaque of STEM Excellence awarded June 2017.
- Handwriting: Ciaran Gates (4th Class) was a Runner-up in the An Post/ INTO National Handwriting Competition.
- History Field Trips included a 4th Class to Trim Castle, 5th Class trip to Newgrange & Walking Tour of Drogheda and 6th Class trip to GPO & Glasnevin Cemetery.
- Student Council was set up, carried out surveys and met Principal on a number of occasions. They also formed the welcome party for the visit of the President of the I.N.T.O.
- Participant was chosen for Spelling Bee in Dundalk following 6th Class Spelling Bee in school.
- Erasmus programme with four other countries.
- Produced various dramas.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge.

The Board wishes to congratulate and express its thanks to all involved.

Policy Development

Policies developed/reviewed and ratified throughout the year: Child Protection, Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying, Relationships and Sexuality Education(RSE), Acceptable Usage Policy, Safety Statement, Enrolment policy, e-Learning policy and Assessment policy.

Curricular Development:

The staff continued to develop & implement maths and literacy policies. The focus for literacy in the past year was oral language for Junior Infants to 2nd Class, and genres of writing for 3rd to 6th Class. Staff training in strategies for both areas was provided. Inservice training for the implementation of the new language curriculum was received. Teaching of phonics and the teaching of reading in Infant classes was reviewed. Staff also spent time reviewing many aspects of the teaching of Gaeilge.

Teacher/SNA appointments:

Interviews were held throughout the year and the Board subsequently ratified the appointment of teachers and SNAs.

Child Protection and Anti Bullying:

The Board of Management is happy to confirm that it has met its obligations in respect of Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Procedures as per Circular 0065/2011 Appendix 2 and Circular 0045/2013.

Review of Tests and Attendance:

Standardised Testing was carried out in May. The aggregate results from 2nd, 4th and 6th classes have been reported to the Department of Education and Skills. The Board of Management will review Standardised Test Results and Pupil Attendance returns at its next meeting in September.

School Accounts:

The financial management of our school was conducted in strict compliance with Department of Education requirements. The Treasurer issued a financial report at each Board of Management meeting, and prepared annual accounts for the school year 2015-16. These were examined and certified by a local accountancy firm, W.O. McGrory, and all was in order. The process will be repeated with the accounts for 2016-17 before the end of 2017.

Building Works/Improvements:

The Dept of Education and Skills gave us a grant to build an extension of 2 extra classrooms and 4 Special Ed rooms. The grant money received, plus substantial local fundraising, was used to convert the existing library into 2 classrooms and then replaced our existing library with both a 48m² purpose designed library and a separate 160m² assembly space. This additional space will serve the school community very well in future years. A big thank you to all who supported our fundraising events. The 6 week draw and Run Around The World proved very successful. The building has been handed over to the school with just some external works remaining to be completed.

Parents' Association:

The school is supported by a very active Parents' Association. The following is a selection of activities/events undertaken by the association during the past year:

Very successful 6 week draw

School book fair

Grandparents Day refreshments

Communion receptions

New Infants day refreshments

Regular meetings at which school policies were discussed

We thank the members of the Parents' Association for giving so willingly of their time and talents throughout the year.

In conclusion, the Board of Management wishes to acknowledge the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils, the support of the parents/guardians and the commitment of staff, all of whom work together to make St Mary's Parish Primary School an excellent, successful and happy place of learning. We wish everyone a very happy and restful Summer.

Anne Phillips (Chairperson)