

ST.FELIM'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

SN Leiter, Coill an Chollaigh, Co. Cabhain

Roll No. 18564W

Principal:

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Board of Management – Annual Report 2019/2020

The Purpose of this Annual Report of the Board of Management of St. Felim's National School is to provide a summary of information on the operation of the school in line with the requirements of the Education Act. This Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website www.thevalens.com, the various notices issued by the school via Aladdin Connect, newsletters and information provided to parents at parent teacher meetings and various other school events.

2019-2020 was another busy and active year for the Board of Management of our school with the following summaries of our work:

Members of the Board of Management 2015-2019.

Mrs. Patricia Sheridan – Chairperson and Patron's Nominee

Fr. Michael Router – Patron's Nominee

Mrs. Cathriona Molloy – Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management

Mrs. Martina O' Connor – Teacher's Nominee

Mr. Michael Kearney – Parent's Nominee

Ms. Catriona Clarke – Parent's Nominee

Mrs. Geraldine Clarke – Community Nominee and Treasurer

Mr. Francis Tierney – Community Nominee and School Premises Officer

Mrs. Eilís Keegan served on the Board when Mrs. Molloy was on maternity leave.

The term for a Board of Management ended on 30th November 2019. The new board took up office on the 1st of December 2019. We would like to thank the outgoing Board for their contribution to our school over the last four years and wish the new Board well in their role for the next four years.

Members of the Board of Management 2019-2023.

Mr. Gerry Sheanon – Chairperson and Patron's Nominee

Fr. Ultan McGoohan – Patron's Nominee

Mrs. Cathriona Molloy – Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management

Mrs. Martina Smyth – Teacher's Nominee

Mr. Pdraig Sheridan – Parent's Nominee

Ms. Catriona Clarke – Parent's Nominee

Mrs. Geraldine Clarke – Community Nominee and Treasurer

Mr. Francis Tierney – Community Nominee and School Premises Officer

Ethos

Confirmation for 2019-2020's 6th class was celebrated on the 26th September 2020.

First Confession for 2019-2020's 2nd class will be celebrated on the 1st of October 2020.

First Holy Communion for 2019-2020's will be celebrated on the 10th October 2020.

The Grow in Love programme is being taught in classes from Infants to fifth class currently and we aim to have all classes using the Grow in Love Programme in the 2019-2020 school year.

Each month the school community come together to celebrate our school ethos at a prayer assembly. The prayer assembly is led by a senior class and their teacher each month.

A prayer service was held for the blessing of our memory garden and unveiling of our plaque from the hugely successful 'Plant a Tree' fundraiser run by the PA.

Two Christmas performances were held in December 2019. The children from infants and 2nd class preformed 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' for the parents in the school hall. The children from 2nd -6th class performed a traditional carol service in the church. Both performances were a huge success. Well Done to all involved.

Child Protection

Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Cathriona Molloy

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Eilís Keegan

In accordance with DES guidelines, a Child Protection Oversight Report was presented at each face to face meeting of the Board. It was not presented at meetings held remotely during the time of school closure.

Staffing

The school employs 12 teachers, 3 SNAs, a secretary and a part-time cleaner and a part-time caretaker. There was one job share teaching arrangement in place resulting in a fixed term teaching position for the 2019 – 2020 school year; Ms. Moynagh was appointed to this position. There was a parental leave position from September to June, Ms. Farrelly was appointed to fill this position.

Whole School Evaluation

The school underwent a WSE MLL in November 2019. Two DES inspectors visited our school over three days last November. They carried out an evaluation of the overall work of a school with regard to the following five key questions of quality:

- How good are the learning achievements of pupils?
- How good is the teaching?
- How is the well-being of pupils supported?
- How effective are leadership and management?
- How effective is school self-evaluation and how well is it being used to improve learning, teaching, leadership and management?

We received an extremely positive report, achieving 'very good' across all areas evaluated. The Principal and staff are addressing the recommendations made in the report as part of the whole school development plan. The Board of Management congratulate the teachers and staff on the high standards identified in the report and support the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the report.

School Closure

As a result of COVID 19, the government announced the national closure of all schools on March 12th 2020. Staff prepared packs of work for initial two-week period. The period of school closure was extended by the government. Teachers provided learning opportunities for the children via online learning. Work and supporting videos were emailed to parents weekly. Children were given the opportunity to send work back to the teachers for feedback. Zoom calls were organised to support children's wellbeing. The BOM commends the teachers for their commitment in providing meaningful learning opportunities to the children during these unprecedented times.

The BOM would also like to thank and congratulate the children and their parents for their hard work and commitment during this very challenging time.

Meetings of staff and the BOM continued during the school closure with all meetings taking place remotely.

Policy Development

The Board ratified the following Policies:

Legislative/Mandatory Policies	Organisational Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Child Safeguarding Statement • Anti-Bullying Policy – Annual Review • Admissions Policy • Data Protection Policy – Update • Whistleblowing (Protected Disclosures) Policy • Substance Use Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Incidents Policy – Annual Review • EPV Day Policy • School Uniform Policy • Toileting & Intimate Care Needs • Droichead & Induction Policy • School Partnership Policy • Administration of Medicines Policy • Internet Acceptable Use Policy • CCTV Policy • Distance Learning Policy • COVID 19 Response Plan

Curricular Development

The following curricular whole school plans were reviewed by the staff and ratified by the Board:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaeilge – Policy Review • Maths – Policy Review • Visual Arts – Policy Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama – Policy Review • SSE – Digital Learning Plan Year 2
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The children celebrated the following events throughout the year

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths Week • Science Week • Seachtain na Gaeilge • Active Home Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Fortnight • Anti-Bullying Awareness Month • Catholic Schools Week • Good Manners Month
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Primary Language Curriculum

The Primary Language curriculum was fully implemented in all classes in the 2019-2020 school year. All teachers engaged with staff training in line with DES requirements in relation to the Primary Language Curriculum.

School Self Evaluation

The focus of School Self-Evaluation is the implementation of the Digital Learning Framework in our school. Year 1 of the School Improvement Plan was rolled out whereby the 16 iPads that were bought were used as a learning resource. The ICT money received from the DES for the school year 2019-2020 was used to purchase teacher iPads and a further 16 pupil iPads. Staff members engaged in iPad training. As a result of the school closure and the introduction of online learning, our digital learning plan was updated to take into account these necessary changes. Seesaw will be introduced throughout the school and will be implemented by all staff members in the 2020-2021 school year.

Staff Training

Staff completed training on the following topics:

- Primary Language Curriculum Training – full staff
- Digital Learning – full staff
- iPad Training – full staff
- Seesaw Training – full staff
- COVID 19 Training – full staff

Individual teachers also completed training in the following areas:

- Critical Incidents
- Wellbeing
- Physical Literacy
- Digital Learning

Health & Safety

A health and safety audit of the school, schoolyard and grounds was carried out at intervals throughout the year. All maintenance issues were addressed in a timely manner.

Croke Park Hours

All staff have completed their commitment to work their Croke Park Hours 2019/2020.

Treasurer's Report

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with the Department of Education and Skills requirements. At each Board of Management meeting the treasurer furnishes the board with a detailed report on school finances. The Board of Management accounts are certified each year and submitted to the FSSU, by an external accountant in line with DES guidelines. The certified accounts are then submitted to the FSSU and to the Kilmore Diocesan secretary.

When certifying the 2019-2020 schools accounts, the external accountant notified the BOM that the current practice of transferring funds for the operation of the school's book rental scheme to the Parent's Association is not in line with the procedures as set out by the FSSU and must not continue. In line with best accounting practice, the PA have transferred all monies back to BOM account.

Tusla Reporting on pupil attendance

The school completed all mandatory reports to Tusla regarding pupil attendance at regular intervals throughout the year.

Parental Involvement

The Parents Association Committee for the 2019-2020 school year was Jim Crosbie (Chairperson), Jacinta Woods (Vice Chairperson), Jackie Gregory (Secretary), Paula Smith (Vice Secretary), Orla Cahill & Helen Sheridan (Joint Treasurers).

Meetings of the Parents Association took place regularly throughout the school year.

The following fund-raising events were organised by the Parents Association:

1. Christmas Cards for Schools
2. The Christmas Draw

The money raised from the fundraising supported the following items/events:

1. PA Insurance and NPC membership
2. Music Lessons for all children in 1st – 6th classes
3. A Christmas treat for all the children delivered by Santa
4. First Communion Treats
5. Quiz-team sponsorship

The Board of Management would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Parents Association for the excellent work carried out during the last school year. We would like to acknowledge the wonderful fundraising that you do for the good of the pupils in our school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The children took part in various activities throughout the year that included:

- Cumann na mBunscol Competition
- Quizzes
- Art Competitions
- Athletics

Community Links

The Board wishes to acknowledge the wonderful support it receives from the local community in the form of input from various groups who help the school out on a regular basis, enriching our school programme and enhancing and maintaining our school grounds. This support is very much appreciated.

Special Events

The Board of Management would also like to congratulate Ms. McGuinness, Mrs. Kelly and their families on the birth of their baby girls.

Word of Thanks

In concluding our Annual Report for 2019 – 2020, the Board of Management wishes to acknowledge the commitment of staff, the support of the parents/guardians and the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils who work together to make the school a safe, happy and secure learning environment. Míle Buíochas to all who helped make this year such a positive and productive one in St. Felim's N.S.