

St Felim's National School



(042) 9665605
office@thevalens.com
www.thevalens.com

Roll No. 18564W
Charity No: 20109967
Principal: Mrs. Eilís Keegan
Deputy Principal: Mrs. Patrice Clarke

Leiter, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan A82 CX30

Board of Management – Annual Report 2021-2022

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.

2021-2022 was another busy and active year for the Board of Management of our school with the following summaries of our work:

Board of Management 2019-2023.

Chairperson and Patron's Nominee- Gerry Sheanon
Patron's Nominee-Fr Ultan McGoohan
Principal & Secretary- Eilís Keegan
Teacher's Nominee-Martina Smyth
Parent's Nominee-Padraig Sheridan
Parent's Nominee-Catriona Clarke
Community Nominee & Treasurer – Geraldine Clarke
Community Nominee & School Premises Officer- Francis Tierney

Ethos

Sixth Class 2020/2021 received the sacrament of Confirmation in St Anne's Church on the 12th March 2022. Pupils in Second Class 2021/2022 received the sacrament of Penance on 5th April 2022. They received the sacrament of First Holy Communion in St Anne's Church on 21st May 2022.

The Grow in Love programme is the religious education series in use in the school. All classes have a sacred space in their classroom which are changed regularly. We also have a sacred space in our school corridor that is updated in line with the liturgical calendar.

The school community continues to provide opportunities for prayer and opportunities to celebrate our ethos through prayer assemblies. These prayer assemblies are held monthly and are led by classes in the senior end of the school. Last year they were held remotely over zoom in line with Public Health Advice.

Child Protection

Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Eilís Keegan
Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Patrice Clarke

In accordance with DES guidelines, a Child Protection Oversight Report was presented at each face-to-face meeting of the Board.

Staffing

The school employs eleven permanent teaching staff, three SNAs, a secretary, a part-time cleaner and a part-time caretaker.

The Board approved a career break and two job share arrangements for teaching staff last year.

KA Moynagh, S. Farrelly, E. McShane & M. Payne respectively were employed to cover these positions.

The Board approved an SNA Job Share arrangement and J. Brennan was appointed to cover the position.

Teresa Tierney retired from her cleaning position in June 2022. The board would like to acknowledge and thank Teresa for her work down through the years and wish her well in her retirement. The Board appointed Mrs Pauline Farrelly as our cleaner commencing in August 2022.

Policy Development

The Board ratified the following Policies:

Legislative/Mandatory Policies	Organisational Policies
Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-Bullying Policy – Annual Review Health and Safety Statement- Annual Review Admissions Policy- Annual Review	Covid 19 Response Plan & Risk Assessment Critical Incidents Policy – Annual Review Discretionary Leave Policy Irish Exemption Policy Class Formation Policy School Tours & Excursions Policy School Accident & Injury Policy Data Protection Policy

Curricular Development

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

History – Policy Review Geography – Policy Review Science – Policy Review Social, Personal and Health Education- Policy Review Relationships & Sexuality Education – Policy Review Digital Learning Plan Year 3
--

The children celebrated the following events throughout the year

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths Week • Science Week • Sports Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Fortnight • Anti-Bullying Awareness Month • Catholic Schools Week
--	--

Ger Brick facilitated an Internet Safety & Cyberbullying Workshop for parents and guardians over zoom. Ger Brick followed up with an internet safety workshop for pupils in Sixth Class.

Recorder classes resumed weekly in Term One 2021/2022 and we were delighted to welcome Mr Gaskin back to The Vale. Thanks to the PA who fund these weekly lessons.

Active Schools

The school successfully achieved Active Schools Flag in June 2022 under the guidance of our active Schools Co-ordinator Ms KA Moynagh. A selection of photographs and videos of all the activities we undertook is available on the school website.

Digital Learning Plan

Work continued on the implementation of the Digital Learning Framework in 2021-2022. Teachers implemented year 3 of our school improvement plan. The focus of our Digital plan was to use Seesaw to assign reading activities and experiences in English and Irish in relevant classes in the school. Targeted teacher observations were used to give feedback to groups and individuals as necessary. All staff continue to use a range of digital technologies to support learning in their classrooms. In Term 3, all staff trialled using Reading Eggs software with their class.

Staff Training

Staff completed training on the following topics:

- First Aid for School

Individual teachers also completed training in the following areas:

- Leadership & Management
- Relationships & Sexuality Education
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Special Education
- Wellbeing

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 2021/2022.

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.

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 members of the Parent Association Committee 2021-2022 were:

Chairperson – Jackie Gregory

Secretary – Jim Crosbie

Joint Treasurers- Francis Brennan & Claire Clarke

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

The Parents Association's Annual Christmas Draw Fundraiser was well supported and a great success.

The money raised 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

The Parents Association brought the 'Design a Jersey Competition' to fruition in May 2021. The Board, staff and pupils were delighted to receive our beautiful new jerseys and our girls' team took great pride in wearing them in the Cumann na mBunscol Division 1 final in June.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Both boys and girls were delighted to be involved with Cumann na mBunscol competitions again this year with the girls reaching the Division 1 final in June. Unfortunately, the girls did not take home the trophy despite an admirable performance.

School Improvements

The Board undertook the following school improvements in 2021/2022:

- The fencing around the tarmac pitch was replaced in summer 2022.
- The school was deep cleaned in preparation for our reopening at the end of August.
- Four new Interactive panels were installed in Sixth class, Third Class, Second Class and Fourth Class.

The Board would also like to acknowledge Donal & Jennifer Clarke who donated a set of GAA goalposts and Adrian Lambe who made and erected a stainless steel basketball net for the concrete yard.

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 Mrs. Sharkey on the birth of her baby girl in July 2022.

Word of Thanks

In concluding our Annual Report for 2021/2022, 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 2021/2022 such a positive and productive year in St. Felim's N.S.