

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 2018/2019

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.

2018-2019 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.

Ethos

The school had a visit from the Diocesan Inspector on the 12th November 2018 reporting positively.

Confirmation was celebrated on the 16th March 2019.

First Holy Communion was celebrated on the 4th May 2019.

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.

Child Protection

Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Cathriona Molloy

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Mrs. Eilís Keegan

While Mrs. Molloy was on maternity leave Mrs. Eilís Keegan acted as DLP and Mrs. Martina O'Connor acted as DDLP.

A Child Protection Oversight Report was presented at each meeting of the Board in accordance with DES guidelines.

Parental Involvement

The Parents Association Committee for the 2018-2019 school year was Jim Crosbie (Chairperson), Jackie Gregory (Secretary), Orla Cahill & Helen Sheridan (Joint Treasurers).

The committee have worked very hard this school year, bringing the 'Plant a Tree' fundraiser to its completion. A plaque takes pride of place in the main school corridor. All the planting and the memory garden have been completed as part of this fundraiser. The new play area is a fantastic addition to our school and the children are benefitting greatly from it.

Meetings of the Parents Association took place regularly throughout the school year. A number of fund-raising events were organised by the Parents Association:

1. The Christmas Draw
2. Lá Glas
3. A 3km/6km walk

The money raised from the fundraising supported the following 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. Easter goodie bags and an Easter egg raffle
5. First Communion Tea Party
6. Goodie bags for the communion day choir
7. Part-funding of the internet safety training
8. Quiz-team sponsorship

The Parents Association also operate our school's book rental scheme.

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.

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 2018 – 2019 school year; Ms. Moynagh was appointed to this position. There was a parental leave position from September to January, Ms. Farrelly was appointed to fill this position. There was one maternity leave position in December and two in January. Ms. Farrelly, Mr. Gilsenan and Mr. Collins were appointed to these positions.

Mrs. Eilís Keegan was Acting Principal and Mrs. Martina O' Connor was acting Deputy Principal from January to June 2019.

Policy Development

The Board ratified the following Policies:

Legislative/Mandatory Policies	Organisational Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • Anti-Bullying Policy – Annual Review • Enrolment Policy Review • Health & Safety Policy – Annual Review • Data Protection Policy – Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Incidents Policy – Annual Review • Discretionary Leave Policy – Review • Class Formation Policy – Review • Dignity at Work Policy – New • Swimming Policy - Review

Curricular Development

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History – Policy Review• Geography – Policy Review• Science – Policy Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE – Policy Review• SPHE – Policy Review• RSE – Policy Review• Music – Policy Review
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The children celebrated the following events throughout the year

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maths Week• Science Week• Green Schools – Lá Glas• Seachtain na Gaeilge• Active Schools 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 classes from Junior Infants to 2nd class. The senior classes 3rd – 6th were engaging with the curriculum, for this school year. Support on implementing this language curriculum was received from a PDST advisor. All staff also attended a full day training seminar on the Primary Language Curriculum.

School Self Evaluation

The school is now re-engaging with School Self-Evaluation. The focus of School Self-Evaluation was identified as the implementation of the Digital Learning Framework in our school. Staff members attended Digital Learning Strategy Training. The school invested in 16 iPads for use by the children as a learning resource. A plan for use of the iPads was put in place and will be implemented by all staff members in the 2019-2020 school year and subsequent years.

Staff Training

Staff completed training on the following:

- Primary Language Curriculum Training
- Digital Learning Framework Training
- Digital Storytelling Training
- Sticks and Stones Teacher Training
- Meditation with children
- Fire Extinguisher Training

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 2018/2019.

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, by an external accountant in line with DES guidelines. The 2018-2019 accounts will be submitted to the FSSU.

Clár Funding

The Board of Management with the full support of the Parents Association submitted a very comprehensive application for Clár Funding under Measure 2: Support for Play Areas to Cavan County Council. Our application was selected to be presented to the Minister for the Department of Rural and Community Development. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful at this stage. The Board would like to thank all those, including local political representatives, who supported our application.

Tusla Reporting on pupil attendance

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

Home School Communication

We introduced Aladdin Connect by means of communication with the school community. Thank you for your co-operation with this new initiative. We will continue to keep you informed of all school activities and other relevant information through the app and our school website.

Extra-Curricular Activities

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

- Cumman 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 like to wish Bishop Router every success in his new role as Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh. We would also like to thank him for his guidance and support while he served on our school's Board of Management. The Board of Management would also like to congratulate Mrs. Sharkey, Mrs. Molloy and Mrs. Roache and their husbands on the birth of their baby girls and boy during the school year.

Word of Thanks

In concluding our Annual Report for 2018 - 2019, 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. Mile Buíochas to all who helped make this year such a positive and productive one in St. Felim's N.S.