

Board of Management Annual Report 2015-'16

School Overview

Scoil an Fhraoich Mhóir is a Catholic co-educational primary school located in the Parish of Portlaoise under the patronage of the bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. The school had an enrolment of 227 pupils during the 2015-16 school year and was staffed by a principal, twelve teachers, four SNAs, a part-time secretary and caretaker.

School Ethos

The school is guided by the religious and educational philosophy of the patron. This philosophy emphasises Gospel values such as inclusivity, care for the disadvantaged and those with special educational needs, care for the whole person, respect for human dignity and catering for the local community. As a Catholic school, Christian values are practiced and encouraged in every aspect of school life. A sense of community is fostered where moral values such as honesty, justice, fairness, sensitivity to others and civic responsibility are developed.

Board of Management

Fr. Paddy Byrne, David O'Brien, Seamus McGrath, Anita O'Connell, Catherine Whelan, Dolores Booth, Bernard Gowing, Brenda Delaney.

The Board of Management held six meetings during the year.

Board Initiatives

The following initiatives were overseen and supported by the Board during the school year:

- Completion of second phase of the school extension
- Renovation of existing building including replacement of all lighting, relocation of staffroom, office, GP room and equipping of same.
- Provision of a Sensory Room
- First Green Flag achieved.
- Blessing of new extension & open day
- New fence and hedging along yard boundary.
- Playground markings.
- Communion, confirmation, school masses and assemblies.
- Numerous sporting activities including All-Ireland winning Volleyball team.
- Introduction of guided reading

Policy Review

The following policies were reviewed by the Board during the year:

- Attendance
- CCTV
- Adult Bullying
- Antbullying

- Enrolment
- Health & Safety
- Child Protection
- Administration of Medication
- Critical Incident

School Self-Evaluation

Work was undertaken in the areas of literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge. In literacy a new guided reading scheme was introduced and proved highly effective. In numeracy the area of problem solving was worked on. In Gaeilge surveys of pupils, staff and parents were undertaken before the INTO directive was introduced. A copy of the school's self-evaluation is available on the school's website.

Confirmation

The Board confirms that:

- It has met its obligations in respect of Child Protection and Anti-bullying procedures.
- Has reviewed standardised test results and pupil attendance returns
- The school accounts have been certified

Conclusion

The Board of Management wish to acknowledge the dedication of the school staff, the support of parents/guardians and the wider community and the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils who ensure our school continues to be a beacon of excellence in Catholic primary education.