

Board of Management Annual Report 2016-'17

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 228 pupils during the 2016-17 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:

- Application to the Department of Education and Skills for a proper general purposes room and storage.
- Additional hedging along yard boundary and along road boundary.
- Installation of a walking track around the field.
- Communion, confirmation, school masses, Catholic schools week and assemblies.
- Numerous sporting activities including All-Ireland winning Spikeball team.
- Further development and funding of levelled reading in the school.
- Standardised testing comparison
- Surveying of parents regarding school resources and uniform
- Support of children requiring clinical and educational assessments.
- Introduction of computer classes for 3rd – 6th
- Additional security in light of school break in.

Policy Review

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

- Anti-bullying
- Code of Behaviour
- Accounts

- Class Size
- Statement of Attendance Strategy
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Special Education Needs
- Enrolment
- Health & Safety
- Child Protection
- Physical Intervention
- EPV Days
- Insurance
- Administration of Medication

School Self-Evaluation

Work started previously in literacy and numeracy continued in the school despite the INTO directive suspending co-operation with this initiative. Work in the area of Gaeilge will recommence when the INTO lift their directive.

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.