



2020- 2021 Board of Management Annual Report

Policies Ratified:

Admissions Policy completed and approved by school Patron.

Healthy Lunch Policy

Behaviour Plan to facilitate COVID behaviours

Health and Safety Policy: audit carried out Pat Henebery elected as Health & Safety Rep on the Board of Management.

Acceptable Use and Distance Learning Policy

Distance Learning Plan

Intimate Care Policy

Critical Incident Policy

Class Splitting Policy

COVID

Covid Response Plan was drawn up with intensive input from staff. The Board were invited to review this prior to circulation to parents on Aladdin, Class Dojo and School website.

Staggered arrival and dismissal times were approved and remained in place for the school year.

School received ongoing funding from the Department to facilitate cleaning of school and provision of PPE for all staff.

X2 staff rooms continue to be required as well as x2 breaks also required was additional supervision on yard to provide sufficient cover.

COVID team was set up as per regulations which a Lead Worker Representative and Deputy Lead Worker representative being elected to fulfil the additional COVID related duties.

committee.

Whelan Cleaners were contracted to provide cleaning and sanitising after school each day with additional cleaning during each school day to clean toilets and frequently touched points.

Annual Sponsored walk at Halloween was jettisoned in favour of a No Uniform / Halloween Dress Up day.

Parental Zooms were facilitated by Ursula Kelly to deliver aspects of the Parent Plus Programme.

Tablets were distributed to families to support home learning during the Jan – March lockdown. The school's Distance Learning plan included recorded lessons, Zoom lessons, zoom check in sessions and social group sessions.

Daily and individual contact was maintained with all except a very small minority of pupils.

Sacramental Provision:

This year Confirmation will happen on August and 1st Communion will be as last year in September following the children's return to school. This is similar to the Sacramental celebrations for 2020.

Aladdin Connect

Aladdin Connect was launched in August just prior to return to school and this facilitated the collection of all monies throughout the year. The annual fee for Aladdin Connect is more than returned to us in the increased income we receive from Parental payments as the system facilitates ease of payments. This also is COVID Compliant as no monies are brought into school. Connect also provides another free method of communication with parents.

School Website:

New website was launched and all staff now have their own unique work email. The new website is easier to navigate from both user and administration points of view

School Renovations 2020

Renovations to the layout of the Administrative offices to facilitate closer proximity for visitors whilst reducing through traffic/noise.

Staff Toilet:

Toilets are required downstairs as there were no adult toilet facilities downstairs for school staff. The selection of contractors to complete the project was carried out in accordance with public procurement procedures to allow for fair competition.

Staff Room reallocation:

The Parent's Room (Room 8) has now become a Staffroom for the teachers downstairs to facilitate compliance with COVID 19 Guidelunes.

School Hall Reallocation:

It was necessary to re allocate The School Hall for Learning Support Rooms. This was as a direct consequence of COVID restrictions. It is envisaged that this arrangement will remain for the foreseeable future.

School Footpath:

The footpath just outside the school was resurfaced just prior to the opening of school in late August.

Painting of School:

John Ffrench painted the entire interior of the school on completion Tina Fortune decorated various points around the school with pictures and motivational/ inspiring quotes from famous authors and well known characters alike.

School Signs:

Signage was promised at the Fisher's Row by the Council to alert traffic of School entrance.

WIFI:

Broadband Tendering was completed on our behalf by the PDST: Virgin Ireland installed the High Fibre Line and we are currently awaiting final installation.

Retirements:

This school year saw the retirements of two valued members of our school staff Mar Doyle our School Secretary and Mary Lawlor our School Cleaner. The Interview process for Mar's replacement has been initiated and will be conclude in the coming weeks.

CPD:**Trauma Informed Care**

Introductory session was facilitated with Deirdre Kearney Behavioural Therapist and Doctoral fellow in Trinity College. Deirdre will facilitate the same introductory training for the remainder of the staff as a precursor to the establishment of a Trauma Team for the School.

This team will coordinate and monitor the roll out of Trauma Informed Care across all areas of school life from Staff behaviours, staff expectations, pupil contracts and classroom environments.

Brain Calm:

Brain Calm training was attended by all SNAs. It is being used on a daily basis in the Butterfly Room and will be rolled out to other groups of children in the coming Academic year.

School Events

Christmas Crib:

The Christmas Crib was an outdoor event this year . It was the Brain child of Mr. Murphy from 6th class and constructed was assisted by other Staff members. Their assistance was also on hand for the assembly outside. Mr. French, Mr. Doyle, Mr Gregg and John Ffrench were the Staff Team. The figures were all decorated by the children in the two 6th classes.

It was a tremendous success and people came from far and wide to view. It provided a glimmer of hope in the midst of the Christmas lockdown that was 2020.

Fun Day:

Tuesday 22nd June:

Funded by a combination of funds from Parent's Association/ Board of Management and Parents. It was an expensive event but as it took the place of school tours there were no bus costs or other venue costs to be paid. It was a fabulous occasion, all within Guidelines of Public Health and the weather was perfect. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

6th Class School Tour:

Tuesday 29th June IOAC. Both classes are partaking in the tour .. they will be maintained in their class bubbles and not cross paths, so to speak, during the day.

Wexford's Fittest School:

The Faythe came 2nd in the overall final of the competition. Cost of Team entry was raised by a no Uniform Day in school. Team members Deirdre, Mr. Ó Donnagáin, Ms. Murphy and Mr. French gave a sterling performance and showed us all exactly how a team keeps going when the going gets tough.

St. Mary's Bingo:

St. Mary's hosted a bingo night for the school and raised €1080 for our school that was used to upgrade PE equipment.

Helix Christmas Pantomime:

Streamed for all classes in the school to offset the fact that no assemblies or Christmas Carol Service or traditional gatherings of any kind were permitted for the children and their families.

Class Trips:

Min Ryan Park / Playground classes are taking advantage of the amenities closer to home for their school tours this year.

2nd Class:

Cinema trip The Arch to offset the disappointment of not celebrating Communion until September.

Equine Therapy:

The children in The Butterfly Room partook of x3 weeks of Equine Therapy which was funded by the Light Opera Society donation in February/ March 2020.

Camán Everybody:

The children in our infant section were treated to this new programme run by the GAA. Alan Monaghan, our school coach delivered the programme which saw each child being presented with a 12inch hurl. The children then decorated their own hurl and used it in skill building in a fun and friendly environment.

HSCL Post:

Ursula Kelly's five year contract as Home School Liaison Coordinator is now over and her replacement is Caroline Mullins. Caroline was appointed following the appointment procedure in accordance with Circular 0016/ 2019.

Afterschool Care:

Sunny Days Afterschool Care is providing after school care to all pupils that wish to avail of it. We are delighted to be in a position to offer this extended facility to our children and their families.

It was a sad day, however, as we bade a fond farewell to our outgoing Afterschool providers Audrey, Bernie, Danielle and Tina who have been providing a sterling service over the last few years. They have woven themselves into the fabric of St. John of God Primary School and the hearts of those they cared for.

Staffing/ Class Splits

Following staff consultation and Board of Management approval it was decided to opt for a split class at each level. This is to reduce class sizes across the board and facilitate increased and consistent teacher / pupil contact. This decision was communicated to parents and splits were decided upon in line with St. John of God Class Splitting policy.

