

St. Anthony's Special School, Humbert Way, Castlebar.

Board of Management Annual Report for 2023 – 2024

Thanks to Board of Management members:

Chairperson:	Joe Staunton
Treasurer:	Dara Dunne
Secretary:	Anna Sweeney
Teacher Rep:	Clare Fitzgerald
Parent Reps:	Brian Golden Linda Gibbons
Patron Rep:	Anne Chambers
Community Reps:	Teresa Ward

School Events & Initiatives 2023-24

Creative Clusters in Schools 2023-24

- Grant received to allow for Creative Cluster project alongside CastlebarEdT and Barnacogue NS under the stewardship of DEP Helena Brady

Green Schools

- We received our 8th Green Schools flag under the guidance of our AP2 post holder Noelle Murphy

Food Dudes 2023-24

- AP2 post holder Ross Higgins attended training and school had refresher week in May 2024.

Communion

- Took place for children May 2024 with Fr. Eustace in the local church

Parent-Teacher meetings: held in person Nov 2023

Whole School Staff training 2023-24

SNA/Bus Escorts First Aid/Manual Handling-Patient handling Aug 2023

Junior Cycle day 1 All class teachers April 2024

Junior Cycle day 2 All class teachers May 2024

Primary Maths Curriculum May 2024

Middletown Centre for Autism Training 2024

- "Reframing Behaviour" 11 Apr
- "Autism and transitions" 18 Apr
- "Autism and RSE" 9 May

Junior Cycle: L1LP in place for all post primary pupils from Senior A, B, C – presentations of DES Awards to 2023 recipients in June 2024

School Leavers Programme: Teacher Ross Higgins continues to trial our own programme with School Leavers after the students finish the Junior Cycle programmes. Senior Cycle to roll out in September 2024 but have had no consultation.

ISSSC: various events including soccer, basketball, swimming, bowling and athletics all resumed fully over year and children attended events such as GAA for All

Mayo Sports Partnership: RUGBY for All – Ray McNamara and Simon from Connacht Rugby gave in school training sessions to all classes and school attended fun sports day locally.

CREDIT UNION ART: once again lots of local and regional success

Foroige Art Competition: success for children again

WELLBEING FOR ALL:

- Cinema Days for all
- Social Nights and events over year for staff

School Staffing 2023-2024

- Sincere thanks to all Teachers, SNA's, Nurse, Chef, Kitchen assistant, Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner, Bus Escorts – for your work supporting the pupils of the school.
- School currently consists of 9 class teachers, 4 part-time post primary teachers, 18 SNA's and 19 Bus Escorts
- New APII post approved Orna Cunniffe with special responsibility for IT
- TUS participant Ilva Kokalova extended contract to June 24
- Post-Primary PE teacher Wendy Palmer retired in June 24
- All school staff are commended for their dedication, commitment and great work as we worked through the 23-24 academic year.

School Works/Buildings/Resources

- Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports both times over 23-24 with some recommendations that is corrected
- Modular Unit opened in November 23 for Senior C class group
- New Padding in the Vista Sensory Room installed
- New School website created by Adrian Keena

Policy Development

- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Annual Review completed Jan 2024
- Review of critical incident policy
- New core team (Nurse Mary, Lucy, Clare, Anna, Helena, Belinda and Caroline) established
- New Religion Policy
- Enteral feeding policy
- Admission Statement updated
- Parental complaints procedures updated
- All Policies put up on our new website

RIP

We remember the close family & relatives of management, staff & pupils who passed away over the year. We extend our sincere sympathies to all those bereaved this past year. May they all

Rest in Peace. Amen.



Curricular Development

- **SSE**
 - Wellbeing- focus areas decided on after survey
 - Whole school assembly reinstated with student of the month awards
 - Wellbeing notice boards to display all wellbeing activities going on in every classroom
 - Digital Student Support Files developed by Principal Anna continued for new students and passed on to next teacher
- **Numeracy:** active learning promoted in this area. Concrete materials and use of phone/calculator for social maths promoted especially for senior classes – real life maths.
- **Language & Communication:** ISL and PECS continues to enhance the communication
- **Literacy: SSE:** Further work ongoing in this area and new Literacy programme EDMARK ordered
- **New Junior Cycle:** Further Inservice support with facilitators from the JCT Service was given to all class teachers in May 2023.
- **Psychology:** School was allocated NEPS support by Eadaoin O'Brien Psychologist and she has been a valuable asset to the school. Involved and supported with 3 students this year
- **CDNT Teams** – therapists and Key Workers met for case-meetings during the year to support students
- **Languages Connect Sampler Module ISL Pilot School – Year 2:** our school was selected to participate again in September 23. Thanks to Nicola Forde ISL tutor
- **NCCA Forum for New Primary Curriculum-** Teacher Clare Fitzgerald continue to be Schools Rep
- **NCSE Associate work**
Teacher Clare Fitzgerald continued her approved her 20 days' substitutable associate work
- **Middletown Centre for Autism intensive support service**
Continued involvement with student K.D in Senior B weekly until May 2024 and monthly case-meeting
- **Talking Mats/Student voice project Oide**
Senior E will engage with tutors to introduce talking mats to encourage student voice and participation started June 24 to continue next school year

THANK YOU!

- ✓ To all the members of the Board of Management for their work and support for the school over the past year
- ✓ To all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the pupils and the school
- ✓ To parents who work alongside the school – your partnership really benefits your child: we thank you for your co-operation and support.
- ✓ Thank you to all our volunteer workers and TUS employees for their continued support
- ✓ To all the Friends of St. Anthony's who support the school in many ways including financial donations – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

Signed:

Date: 27/06/2024

Chairperson

Staff Training & Inservice Development

- SNA staff were trained in Administration of Emergency Medication for Epilepsy May 2023
- Teachers had CPD in various areas.
- Nurse attended various Nursing Inservice training online
- Facilitators from OIDE, NCSE & JCT were able to provide in-service:
 - School Support -Digital Learning co-ordinator Colm Bannon OIDE met with all teachers and Principal
 - NCSE Behaviour Support applied for 2 students
 - JCT Facilitators in-service training
- AP II post holder Orna Cunniffe attended Google for Education
- Nov 23 Dr Craig Benton met with Teacher Noelle Murphy and Principal Anna for Composting Training Green School
- New teacher Niamh Moore attended "Handwriting without tears" training
- Lucy and Principal Anna attended OLCS training for Data approvers and GDPR webinar hosted by NABMSE
- Dep Helena Brady and Principal Anna attended FSSU webinar "Essential Law for school leaders"
- Apr 24 SNA took part in Pegfeeding Training and Sensory circuits with O.T's Vivek and Laura
- May 24 SNA attended Sage wellbeing with Carmel Hughes and CPI refresher with Kelvin Frain

Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs....

Parents wishing to get involved with Parents Association should contact the school Principal in September

- **Training from Middletown Centre for Autism provided for parents April/May 24**
- **Donations received we greatly appreciate the generosity of donors. Funds will go towards our new inside playground**
- **Sep 24 Coffee Morning Fundraiser for the Hospice**
- **Thank you to Park GAA who gave a donation of €2,000 to the school which went towards IT for the school**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH 😊

The school will reopen for pupils on Thursday 28th August 2024. Enjoy the Summer Holidays 😊