

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

## Board of Management Annual Report for 2020 – 2021

### Thanks to Board of Management members

Chairperson:	Joe Staunton
Treasurer:	Dara Dunne
Secretary:	Fiona Byrnes
Teacher Rep:	Anna Sweeney
Parent Reps:	Brian Golden Colette Corcoran
Patron Rep:	Teresa Ward
Community Reps:	Kate Killalea

### School Events & Initiatives

#### Creative Schools Pilot Project Year 2

- Grant received to allow for project in 2020

#### Green Schools

- Work was halted on 8<sup>th</sup> flag due to COVID disruption

#### Food Dudes 2020

- cancelled due to school closure.

**Confirmation** and Communion did not happen again this year due to COVID – plan for Term 3 2022

**Whole School Staff training** did take place online for buccal midazolam and MAPA in August 2020 but other training was all cancelled or online

**JCT:** agreement to put in place L1LP and L2LP for all post primary pupils – all senior teachers reviewing curriculum

**School Leavers Programme:** Teacher Ross Higgins drafted a programme to carry out with School Leavers after the students finish the Junior Cycle programmes. This was piloted over the year and went well

**ISSC:** various events including soccer, basketball, swimming, bowling all cancelled

**\*\*Due to COVID pandemic there were no more possible activities for pupils to engage with in person and school was closed in January and February 2021\*\***

**RUGBY** – we did get a taster day of rugby skills in May 2021 with Castlebar Rugby Club

**ACTIVE LEARNING:** all classes were encouraged to participate in as much active learning both inside and outside the classroom and the results can be seen in the Active Summer Newsletter 2021.

### School Staffing 2019-2020

- Sincere thanks to all staff in the school teachers, SNA's, Nurse, Chef, Kitchen assistant, Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner, Bus Escorts – for all your dedicated work supporting the pupils of the school.
- NCSE allocated a 14<sup>th</sup> SNA post to school for 2020-2021 school year and we got two Part Time SNA's to give extra hands.
- Staff at VHR of COVID remained off work the whole year and were replaced by substitute staff.
- Sub staff were scarce but we had access to the new local sub panel and we used this regularly.

All school staff are commended for their dedication, commitment and patience as we worked through the most unusual academic year online and in school – Thank You All.

### School Works/Buildings/Resources

- Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports both times over 20-21
- Candlelight Ball 2020 provided funding for a music speaker, sensory garden equipment and sensory tunnel.
- ICT – €4000 grant allocated by DES to school. Teaching Laptops purchased for 4 teachers. Leasing agreement with WRIGGLE for 16 new iPads entered into. New pc's got for classrooms
- Extension – tender report gone to DES and approval received to go to construction stage. Thornbrook Construction are successful contractor and first meeting onsite set for 25/6/2021
- School accounts set up for Zoom meetings.
- COVID PPE and minor works involved renting portacabin storage, engaging extra cleaners, new screens around school, new furniture to allow for single seating and social distancing and new blinds/screens on windows.
- Windows replaced in staff room to allow them to open for ventilation.
- Roof gulleys repaired due to leaks

### Policy Development

- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Annual Review completed
- Primary Language Curriculum, new JCT planning for L1LP and L2LP – plans and templates drafted for trial
- Medical Policies all reviewed and updated – Nurse led process
- AUP Policy, Online Learning Plan, Data Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour related to COVID were all reviewed in light of COVID-19

### Curricular Development

- **SSE:** DES put pause on SSE process in schools due to COVID. Priority was wellbeing of all and return to inschool normal
- **Numeracy:** active learning promoted in this area.
- **Literacy & Communication:** New Primary Language Curriculum Inservice support for teachers with PDST Facilitator Marie Ryan all halted and will resume 2021-2022.
- **New Junior Cycle:** a cohort of 6 L2LP students will get certified this year. Further Inservice support with facilitators from the JCT Service was given to relevant class teachers and teachers have all agreed to work on JC L1LP and L2LP's PLU's as their official curriculum for 12-18 years from Sept 2020. Further Inservice supports requested from JCT. This will be a huge new step for our school in meeting the needs of all students.
- **Psychology:** School is allocated some NEPS support by Fran Doolan Psychologist. Other assessments were carried out by Western Care or HSE service where available.
- **PDST & SESS (NCSE) Supports for School:** all halted due to COVID
- **ICT:** took off like a rocket. Staff, pupils and families upskilled and there were zoom online live and recorded classes at all levels, zoom meetings, online learning as well as hard copy post.

### 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 especially during the COVID pandemic and the stress it placed particularly on school staff and pupils.
- ✓ To our LWR Alacoque, DLWR Anna and Nurse Mary who ensured a COVID safe school for all.
- ✓ To parents who work alongside the school – your partnership really benefits your child: we thank you for your co-operation and support.
- ✓ To all the Friends of St. Anthony's who support the school in many ways – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

Signed: Joe Staunton  
Chairperson

Date: 21/06/2021

### RIP

**We remember 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 Rest in Peace.**

### Staff Training & Inservice Development

- SNA staff were trained in Buccal epilepsy administration online Aug 2021
- Teachers had CPD in various areas all online.
- Nurse attended various Nursing Inservice training online
- Facilitators from PDST, SESS & JCT could not come to school
- AP II holder attended Food Dudes training but this program was cancelled due to COVID

**\*\*Due to COVID pandemic all planned inservice training was cancelled. Teachers and staff engaged in numerous CPD through attending virtual webinars on various aspects of remote online learning and developing their IT skills and competencies\*\***

### Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs....

*\*Parents wishing to get involved with forming a new Parents Association should contact the school Principal in September\**

- School buses serviced.
- Candlelight Ball donated €1000 for music speaker, garden equipment and sensory equipment. Many thanks to the committee for their ongoing support.
- Priorities for fundraising will be our yard areas and upgrading all our IT particularly in light of the experience of distance online learning that had to happen so suddenly in 2020.

**The school will reopen for pupils on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 following current COVID guidance.**

**Any changes will be notified to all.**