

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

Board of Management Annual Report for 2022 – 2023

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 2022 – 2023

Creative Clusters in Schools 2022-2023

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

Green Schools

- Work recommenced on work for the 8th flag

Food Dudes 2022-2023

- AP2 postholder Ross Higgins attended training and school had refresher week in May 2023.

Confirmation

- Took place for children in April 2023 with Fr. Eustace and Archbishop Francis in local church

Parent-Teacher meetings: held in person Nov 2022

Whole School Staff training

- CPI Safety Intervention Skills Jan 2023
- Primary Language Curriculum May 2023
- New Primary Framework June 2023
- Emergency Epilepsy training May 2023

Middletown Centre for Autism: 4 sessions of training for Special Schools Staff and parents held in March 23

Junior Cycle: L1LP in place for all post primary pupils from Senior A, B, C – presentations of DES Awards to 2022 recipients in June 2023

School Leavers Programme: Teacher Ross Higgins continues to trial our own programme with School Leavers after the students finish the Junior Cycle programmes. This initiative needs further exploration as number of senior cycle class groups increases.

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

Mayo Sports Partnership: RUGBY for All – Ray McNamara and Simon from Connacht Rugby gave inschool 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
- Pizza Van Day
- Ice Cream for all after Curriculum Evaluation
- Social Nights and events over year for staff
- Confirmation Celebrations
- Graduation and Awards Celebrations

School Staffing 2022-2023

- 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.
- Jan 2023 NCSE allocated 1 extra teacher post to school.
- May 2023 NCSE 23-24 allocations include extra 9th teacher post and 1 extra SNA staff to go with that post and classroom
- New AP11 post approved Noelle Murphy appointed as well as Ross Hoggins
- TUS participant Ilva Kokalova for 2023
- New Typing tutor employed for Visually Impaired child in school.

All school staff are commended for their dedication, commitment and great work as we worked through the 22-23 academic year. This work was acknowledged in the feedback by DES Inspectors during Curriculum Evaluation May 2023

School Works/Buildings/Resources

- Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports both times over 22-23
- Extension opened on time in Sept 2022 for Senior A & B class groups.
- New Active Sensory Room installed
- New Vista Sensory Room installed
- New display corridor areas
- Staff room reopened and fully refurbished
- Staff toilets fully refurbished
- New car park opened
- New Modular Build Classroom approved by DES for Sept 2023, KSN Project Manager.

Policy Development

- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Annual Review completed Jan 2023 inspected during Curriculum Evaluation May 2023
- Primary Language Curriculum webinars training for teachers
- Irish Language & Cultural Activities Policy Reviewed
- Admissions Policy reviewed and amended as per DES guidance Dec 2022
- Guidelines on Reduced Days in School adopted by BOM
- Anti Bullying Policy reviewed and approved
- Anti Cyber Bullying Policy reviewed and approved
- Protected Disclosures/Whistleblower Policy approved
- RSE Policy reviewed and approved
- Staff Leave including Career Breaks policy approved

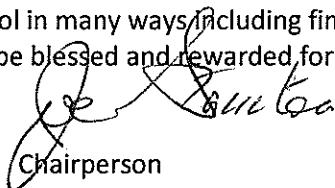
Curricular Development

- **SSE:** Staff started the reengagement process with SSE and from SCOT review identified areas of **Wellbeing, Reading and Student Support File** as needing focus of work.
 - Application to PDST for sustained support with Wellbeing as area of focus for SSE led to advisor working with staff.
 - Reading area under review – see below
 - Student Support File being reviewed with NEPS psychologist and was also recommendation from Inspectors during Curriculum Evaluation
- **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:**
- Major Curriculum Evaluation of this area took place in May 2023 under two school Inspectors. Oral feedback was extremely positive with only one recommendation around student support file/plan already self identified by school. Awaiting written official report.
- **Literacy: SSE:** Reading identified as priority area from SCOT and staff meetings-APII conducted major audit of all reading scheme materials in school and completed store in Sept 2023. New scheme in use in lower school See and Learn. Further work ongoing in this area.
- **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. With her support one child has been approved for
- **Middletown Centre for Autism intensive support service approved for 2023-2024 school year.** This will bring numerous benefits for the child, staff, family and the whole school community
- **CDNT Teams** – slowly setting up links to known therapists or Key Workers – very slow process but has started
- **NCSE Supports for School:** 2 Behaviour advisors met with multiple teachers on Behaviours of Concern of number of pupils
- **Languages Connect Sampler Module ISL Pilot School – Year 2:** our school was selected to participate again in Spring 2023. Thanks to Nicola Forde ISL tutor.

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 our LWRs Josie & Alacoque, DLWR Anna and Nurse Mary who continued to keep our safe school for all during 22-23.
- ✓ 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 including financial donations – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

Signed:



Chairperson

Date: 12/06/2023

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.

Staff Training & Inservice Development

- SNA staff were trained in Administration of Emergency Medication for Epilepsy May 2023
- CPI Safety Interventions training for staff Jan 2023
- Teachers had CPD in various areas.
- Nurse attended various Nursing Inservice training online
- Facilitators from PDST, NCSE & JCT were able to provide inservice:
 - PDST Lisa Sheehan Jones - Wellbeing Framework
 - NCSE Behaviour Support Advisors
 - JCT Facilitators inservice
- AP II holder attended Food Dudes training and ran refresher week May 2023
- DES Curriculum Inspection May 23 by Inspector Christina Casserly and Niamh Ni Fhoighil gave EXCELLENT feedback on the quality and standard of teaching and learning of Language and Communication in all classes visited.

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 March 2023
 - Donations received from wellwishers wanting to remember Meleesa Egan, past founding pupil, who sadly died in 2023. We greatly appreciate the generosity of donors. Funds went towards new sensory rooms.
 - Thank you to John Mulroy who donated €5000 to the school as well as constructing the new extension. His donation allowed us to complete another sensory room.
- THANK YOU VERY MUCH 😊

The school will reopen for pupils on Thursday 31st August 2023. Enjoy the Summer Holidays 😊