

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

Board of Management Annual Report of School Activities 2016 - 2017

New Board of Management for 2016-2019

Chairperson	–	Johnny Mee
Treasurer	–	Caroline Gordon
Secretary	–	Fiona Byrnes
Teacher Rep	–	Anna Sweeney
Parent Reps	–	Eamon Connor
Patron Rep	-	Michael O'Brien
Community Reps	–	Joe Staunton Helena Boylan

School Events & Initiatives

- Maths Week Oct 2016-TV Game Show Theme
- CRC FM did full programme broadcast live from school in Sept 2016
- RSE taught to all classes in Spring Term
- Happy Week 13th-17th Feb 2017: great ☺
- Food Dudes Programme ran in school during Spring Term 2017. Well received by pupils.
- 3 Pupils from school represented Connaught in FAI National Soccer challenge Dublin Feb 2017
- Tennis Ireland 10 Week skills training for senior classes March-April 2017
- Pupils from Class 3 won 1st prize in TUSLA art competition May 2017
- Music Generation Mayo Project Mayo County Council local musicians tutoring pupils in Music Therapy sessions over the year.
- Confirmation Ceremony in school 2 May 2017
- Communion Ceremony in Holy Rosary Church 19 May 2017
- Trolley Dash Fundraiser Dec 2016 – funds raised towards new bus
- Lions Club & Mayo Vintage Car Club annual Santa Party Dec 2016
- Musical concert fundraiser held in Breaffy Hotel Oct 2016 with staff member as main performer
- Race Night fundraiser held March 2017
- Active Healthy Week in School June 2017

Policy Development

- Child Protection Policy reviewed by BOM Feb 17
 - Maths Plan for school ratified Dec 16
 - Progression of Pupils approved Feb 17
 - RSE Policy reviewed Feb 17
- Work ongoing over year and policies approved:
- Garda Vetting for all staff March 2017
 - Mobile Phone Policy May 2017
 - Acceptable Use Internet Policy May 2017
 - Anti-Bullying Policy May 2017
 - Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy May 2017
 - Substance Use Policy May 2017

Work ongoing on

- Enrolment Policy Review
- Data Protection Policy Review
- SPHE School Plan

School Staffing 2016-2017

- No Music Teacher during past year despite advertising many times over year
- No PE teacher as above
- New full-time SNA's appointed – Elaine Kirby & Belinda Masterson during school year and new SNA Caroline Whelehan appointed during year.
- 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.

School Works/Buildings/Resources

- Heating System completely renovated and changed from oil to gas
- Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports
- New mobile shower trolley in paramedical shower area.
- Extension of ceiling hoist in paramedical room to cover toilet and shower area
- New Playground Nexus Twisters for pupils. Designed to improve core stability lower body strength, coordination and cooperative play. Thanks to Castlebar Bridge Club who sponsored them for school.
- Numicon Maths system materials and LEGO Education sets acquired for each class in school thanks to Candlelight Ball funding donation.
- Department of Social Protection conducted a financial audit for the School Meals Scheme during October 2016 which the school passed and cleared successfully
- New accountants were appointed to manage the school accounts.
- New computer system acquired and set up for office and student administration.
- New books acquired for school library

RIP

- **Family members of management, staff & pupils who passed away since June 2016 to date. We extend our sincere sympathies to all those bereaved this past year.**

Curricular Development

- **Numeracy:** introduction of Numicon throughout school, acquisition of new Numicon materials and support resources for all classes in school. Continuing work on promoting the enjoyment of maths through practical applications, interactive materials and games.
- **Literacy SSE (School Self Evaluation) Oral Language & Communication Skills year 2 PLUS** inservice at New Primary Language Curriculum by teachers
- **ASDAN:** Class 6 continued their ASDAN Towards Independence & Workright Programmes
- **New Junior Cycle Level 2:** A second full day of staff inservice held in February 2017. Teacher Anna Sweeney completed year 1 of JCL2 with group of pupils who will continue year 2 with Teacher Ross Higgins next year.
- **Staff Training:** All SNA's received Manual Handling and Patient Handling training in Dec 16 and Feb 17. Defibrillator Training for all staff carried out Aug 2016
- **Psychology:** updated assessments carried out by Western Care and HSE psychologists over year on a number of pupils. No service from NEPS this year.
- **New Primary Language Curriculum:** full day closure on 20/6/16 to familiarise teachers with new curriculum. Teachers just familiarised themselves with new terminology etc during year. Further inservice for teachers to take place during 2017-2018. New planning template will be tried over 2017-2018.
- **PDST & SESS:** facilitators worked with school staff over year on SPHE, Literacy and Behaviour Management
- **Science Week:** facilitator came to school to work with senior classes on science experiments Nov 2016

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 all who fundraise over the year for the school – you are amazing and we really appreciate it!
- ✓ To parents who work alongside the school – your partnership really benefits your child: we thank you for your co-operation and support.
- ✓ To Mayo Sports, Tennis Ireland & Ray McNamara for their continued support in 2016-2017
- ✓ Breaffy Swimming Pool staff for their fantastic assistance with swimming over the year
- ✓ To all the Friends of St. Anthony's who support the school in many different ways – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

Child Protection

All associated policies that link in with Child Protection were reviewed as required over 2016-2017 including:

- **Child Protection Policy & Procedures – annual review.**

New Garda Vetting Procedures came into effect from 29th April 2016 and the school follows all Child Protection, Garda Vetting procedures as per Department of Education guidelines. All staff are being Garda Vetted or re-vetted in 2017.

Staff Training & Inservice Development

- All teachers participated in various professional development training over the 2016-2017 year. Substitute cover was provided by the DES allowing teachers to attend this valuable Inservice training.
- Teachers completed their annual requirement of 36 extra hours as per the Croke Park Agreement.
- A new system for recording SNA 72 hours was introduced over the year.
- Staff Training took place over the year for the School Nurse linked in with the HSE, more to follow next year
- All SNA's, Teachers and ancillary staff such as Bus Escorts received training in Manual Handling and Patient Handling in Dec 16 and Feb 17. First Aid will be covered in August 2017
- **NEW PRIMARY LANGUAGE CURRICULUM –** staff attended inservice seminar in Mayo Education Centre Feb 2017
- JCL2 further development work with facilitator and senior class teachers during Spring term

Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs.....

Main events for 2016-2017 included

- Concert on 13th October 2016
- Trolley Dash in Nov/Dec 2017
- Race Night in March 2017

A Parents Association meeting for interested parents was held on 8/6/2017 to see if the association could be revived. A further meeting will be held in September 2017.

We are still fundraising for our school bus and we hope 2017-2018 will be the year we get it

The school will reopen for pupils on Thursday 31st August 2017.