

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

Board of Management Annual Report for 2018 - 2019

Thanks to Board of Management members

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

Creative Schools Pilot Project 2018

- Co-ordinator Helena Brady links with facilitator and advisor Jojo and a plan is being developed for 2019-2020 for Drama, Arts, Film and Music
- Application to continue for 2019-2020 in place

Green Schools Flag Awards

- School was awarded 7th Flag for Global Citizenship – Energy in 2019
- Plans to look at Plastics Reducing Initiative in 2019-2020 "PLEXIT"

Active Schools Flag Awards

- School was awarded 3rd Active Flag
- First Special School to get 3rd Active Flag
- Active School Week 10-14th June 2019

Entrepreneur Initiative JCT

- Secondary 6 suggested as part of JC L2LP and the whole school followed, and a fantastic **Christmas Crafts Fair** was held in December 2018 which raised funds for school too.

Food Dudes 2019

- School offered Food Dudes programme in summer term 2019 – currently under way.

Confirmation for pupils with Archbishop Neary was on 8th April 2019 in school.

First Communion for pupils with Fr. Eustace was on 23rd May in Holy Rosary Church.

Whole School Staff training on ELKLAN – led by SLT's from HSE – communication for people with complex needs. 3 days over 2018-2019.

JCT: agreement to put in place L1LP and L2LP for all post primary pupils – all teachers reviewing curriculum and training being sought to complement same.

Annual **Open Day** 28th November 2018

ISSSC: various events including soccer, basketball, swimming, bowling and *new* volleyball attended by pupils over 2018-2019

GAA – pupils represented school, County and Province in Croke Park September 2018

FAI – 2 pupils represented school, County and Province in Limerick All Ireland event January 2019

School Staffing 2018-2019

- Sincere thanks to all staff in the schoolteachers, SNA's, Nurse, Chef, Kitchen assistant, Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner, Bus Escorts – for all your dedicated work supporting the pupils of the school.
- New Music Teacher Grainne Hughes appointed September 2018
- New SNA Alacoque Gavin appointed November 2018 to replace SNA Caroline Whelehan who moved to Dublin
- Anna Sweeney was on leave for September/October 2018, Rosin O'Flaherty was acting DP at that time
- SNA Teresa Varley retiring June 2019-can be replaced as NCSE allocated same number SNA's for 2019-2020
- NCSE allocated a 7th teacher to school for 2019-2020 school year.

School Works/Buildings/Resources

- NEW SCHOOL BUS finally acquired Sept 2018 – decided to keep old bus and both buses in constant use.
- New fridges, washing machine for Home Economics kitchen in place
- School used as base for Cookery Summer Camp summer 2018 and for Easter Camo 2019. Request for use during Summer 2019.
- Bi-Annual inspection of catering kitchen produced excellent reports both times
- NCBI grant funded equipment installed – light boards, mood table, aromatherapy board and MegaPod
- Candlelight Ball 2019 provided funding for 10 bicycles and scooters for school.
- ICT – Computers updated and new IWB's for Woodwork and Home Economics Rooms finally ordered – delivery Sept 2019
- School used as Polling Stations in Oct 2018 and May 2019 for elections.
- New filing cabinets ordered May 2019 for safe keeping school records & new class

Policy Development

- Reviewed Code of behaviour to include MAPA training
- Reviewed Enrolment Policy and application form to incorporate GDPR guidelines
- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Annual Review
- Whole School Communication & Language Policy Plan
- RSE/Stay Safe and SPHE policy/school plans were reviewed, updated and approved by BOM
- Primary Language Curriculum, new JCT planning for L1LP and L2LP – plans and templates drafted for trial
- Concussion Policy – Nurse led process

Curricular Development

- **SSE:** Principal attended PDST/SSE seminar in Breaffy Hotel on 10/9/2018 and the Inspector led seminar on SSE: Leading Teaching & Learning in MEC on 20/3/2019. School has been working on all initiatives through the SSE process: Active Flag, Green Flag, Digital Learning Framework, Creative Schools. Continues over next year. See separate SIP/SSE report for more info.
- **Numeracy:** annual maths week Oct 2018. Continuing Numicon, IXL, Ten Town, Twinkl subscriptions. Maths games and making numeracy enjoyable still a priority. Maintaining progress is aim.
- **Literacy & Communication:** New Primary Language Curriculum Inservice support for teachers with PDST Facilitator Maria Carroll and SESS Facilitator Marie Gorman who will continue work over 2019-2020. Plus *ELKLAN (communication for people with complex needs) training for all school staff under HSE SLT's 20 hours over 2018-2019, school will be a "Communication Friendly School". Whole school Communication & Language Plan.
- **New Junior Cycle:** a cohort of 3 L2LP students are ready for certification in 2019. 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 2019. 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 and three pupils were able to avail of assessments. Other assessments were carried out by Western Care or HSE service where available.
- **PDST & SESS (NCSE) Supports for School:** various facilitators worked with staff on RSE Inservice, New Primary Language Curriculum, Literacy & Communication and SSE over the 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 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 Partnership, Ray McNamara, Martin Costello & GAA for their continued support
- ✓ 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 ways – may you be blessed and rewarded for your support!

Signed:

Chairperson

Date:

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. We remember particularly those we have lost from school.

Staff Training & Inservice Development

- All staff were trained in MAPA in August 2018-valid 2 years
- SNAs and Nurse had Diabetes training in August 2018
- SNA's had fun ZUMBA class as part of Active School Flag project and all pupils had same during Active School Week June 2019
- Teachers had CPD in Creative Schools, Literacy and Junior Cycle as well as Literacy Through Movement (PE), Handwriting without Tears, Numicon, RSE, Internet Safety, Suicide Prevention, and SSE.
- All school staff have had 20 hours training on ELKLAN-learning how communication happens for people with complex needs. Given free by HSE SLT's and the school will be recognised as a "Communication Friendly School"
- Nurse attended various Nursing Inservice training on concussion, incontinence etc
- Facilitators from PDST, SESS & JCT came to school over year to support teachers in different curricular areas. See Principals' Annual Report for further details.

Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs....

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

- School was officially recognised by Revenue as a Charity and allocated official charity number CHY 22211 in October 2018.
- School also engaged Easy Payments Plus as an online payments system for use by parents to pay bills either online or by card – it has worked well, and all monies received are recorded online and receipts printed for parents.
- Fundraising finally raised enough money and a new school bus was bought in September 2018. Thanks to Michael Moran who helped with the project.
- Next fundraising goal is for refurbishment of our playground areas – e.g. safer surface for football etc
- Trolley Dash now a Summer fundraiser held in June 2019.

The school will reopen for pupils on Monday 2nd September 2019.