

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

Board of Management Annual Report for 2021 – 2022

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 2021 – 2022

BLAST Arts in Schools School 2021-2022

- o Grant received to allow for artist in residence Lindsay McConnell who created a Willow Rabbit with all classes in school

Green Schools

- o Work was halted on 8th flag application due to COVID but work continued

Food Dudes 2021-2022

- o AP2 postholder attended training and school had refresher week in 2022.

Confirmation and Communion ceremonies did take place for children in May 2022 with Fr. Eustace and Archbishop Michael Neary

Parent-Teacher meetings: virtual Nov 2021

Whole School Staff training did take place for PEG feeding, First Aid/CPR and CPI Pivotal Behaviour Management in 2021

Junior Cycle: L1LP and L2LP in place for all post primary pupils from Senior A, B, C – presentations of DES Awards to 2021 recipients

School Leavers Programme: Teacher Ross Higgins continued to trial our own programme with School Leavers after the students finish the Junior Cycle programmes.

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

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

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.

Visit by Minister for Special Education Josepha Madigan to school on 17th Sept 2021

CREDIT UNION ART: national winner Darren from P2

WELLBEING FOR ALL:

- Pizza Van Day Dec 2021
- Ice Cream Van at Walk June 2022
- Coffee Dock Day for staff June 2022
- Social Nights and events over year for all

School Staffing 2021-2022

- 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.
 - Following major review Nov 2021 NCSE allocated 1.5 extra SNA posts to school.
 - Retirements of MM and A McG SNAs
 - CLASS hours provided by 2 teachers from Feb 2022 to June 2022.
 - NCSE 22-23 allocations include extra 8th teacher post and currently waiting on appeal for extra SNA staff to go with that post and classroom
 - New APII post approved 21-22 Helena Brady appointed to role in Dec 2021
 - TUS participant AMC Nov 21 – Mar 23
- 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 21-22-kitchen floor to be repaired over summer 2022
- ICT – grant from DES spent on lease agreement, continuous repair and maintenance. New classroom grant for 2 new IWB's and set of new Chromebooks for pupils ordered.
- School now connected to Hi Fibre Broadband since May 2022
- Extension – works due to be completed in August 2022. DES provided extra funding for provision of Electric Vehicle Charging point and artificial grass yard area beside new classrooms.
- COVID PPE and minor works portacabin storage purchased outright, engaging extra cleaners, new screens around school, new furniture to allow for single seating and social distancing and new blinds/screens on windows. New outdoor classroom area in concrete in sensory garden
- Some toilets being refurbished summer 2022 as part of PPE
- New outdoor Steeltech Shed finally arrived – main COVID PPE storage area

Policy Development

- Return to school – all COVID policies reviewed Aug 21
- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Annual Review completed Jan 2022 inspected Incidental May 2022
- Primary Language Curriculum, new JCT planning for L1LP and L2LP – school plan approved
- Irish Language & Cultural Activities Policy Jan 2022
- SCOT Review – Whole School Jan 22 – identified priorities for SSE action planning & policy reviews.

Curricular Development

- **SSE:** DES put pause on SSE process in schools due to COVID. Priority was wellbeing of all and return to school but SCOT review done by whole school staff Jan 2022 identified potential areas for development, will resume Sept 2023
- **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.
- **Literacy & Communication:** New Primary Language Curriculum Inservice support for teachers with PDST Facilitator Marie Ryan resumed 21-22 with multiple visits to support teachers on planning, PLC, assessment and Irish Language Policy for school
- **Literacy: SSE:** Reading identified as priority area from SCOT and staff meetings-APII conducted major audit of all reading scheme materials in school as at June 2022. 2 new schemes identified as beneficial and will be ordered for additional support.
- **New Junior Cycle:** Further Inservice support with facilitators from the JCT Service was given to relevant class teachers and teachers work on JC L1LP and L2LP's PLU's as their official curriculum for 12-18 years (from Sept 2020).
- **Psychology:** School was allocated some NEPS support by Eadaoin O'Brien Psychologist but she transferred to work with Ukrainian children and we had 2 assessments almost completed by Angela Dowling NEPS.
- **No other supports or services available from HSE except for emergency or equipment needs. No SLT sessions, no actual therapy sessions of physio or OT**
- **PDST & SESS (NCSE) Supports for School:** 2 advisors met with teachers on Behaviours of Concern of 2 pupils
- **ICT:** agreement by teachers on need for further CPD to make full use of infrastructure available – 4 teachers planning to do summer course in technology July 2022
- **Languages Connect Sampler Module ISL Pilot School:** our school was selected to Pilot a 6 week ISL Tutor Teaching Programme for all classes 2021 – went extremely well and we have just been approved to be part of the 2nd year initiative in Spring Term 2023.
- **DRAMA:** June 2022 Drama Teacher Danielle worked with all classes on theme of Friendship and Welcoming Others

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 Josie, DLWR Anna and Nurse Mary who ensured a COVID safe school for all during 21-22.
- ✓ 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:


Chairperson

Date: 04/07/2022

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 Peg Feeding, 1st Aid, CPR in Aug 2021
- CPI Pivotal Mapa training for staff Nov 2021
- Teachers had CPD in various areas all online.
- Nurse attended various Nursing Inservice training online
- Facilitators from PDST, SESS & JCT were able to provide inservice:
 - PDST Colm Conlon - Staff Wellbeing - Sept 21
 - PDST Marie Ryan – PLC Sustained Support x 5 visits
 - PDST Regina Doherty – Leadership/ISM sustained support x 5 visits
- AP II holder attended Food Dudes training and ran refresher week
- PDST Wellbeing seminar attended by PO and DP May 2022
- DES Incidental Inspection May 22 by Inspector Christina Casserly had EXCELLENT feedback from her!

Parents Assoc & Fundraising Needs....

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

- School set Ukuleles Sept 21
- Bumbleance Jelly Bean Day
- Blue/Yellow for Ukraine Day
- 1st major fundraiser Sponsored Steps Walk Wheel or Run for Sensory Rooms June 2022 raised over €25,000 = 2 new sensory rooms will be installed for 22/23 year
- Volunteer Ireland & Abbie Week Of Possibilities June 2022 – whole school painted, cleaned, garden refurbished, new active pathway installed, fencing replaced, compost area built...priceless donation!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH 😊

The school will reopen for pupils on **Wednesday 31st August 2022**. Any changes will be notified to all.