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## Board of Management – Annual Report 2018/2019

Fáilte romhaibh go léir. Caithfidh mé a rá go raibh bliain an-ghnóthach ag an mBord Bainistíochta. Seo a leanas cúntas ar imeachtaí an Bhoird i rith na bliana 2018/2019.

The purpose of this Annual Report of the Board of Management of Saint Michael's National School is to provide a summary of information on the operation of the school in line with the requirements of the 1998 Education Act. This Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website [www.smnslimerick.ie](http://www.smnslimerick.ie), the various Newsletters issued by the school and information provided to parents at parent teacher meetings and various other school events.

### A message from the Principal

*As I approach the end of my second year as Principal of Saint Michael's National School, I am shocked at how quickly the year has flown by. The building project was a huge part of our year in the school and brought with it many loud sound effects and some logistical changes to the internal building. With great professionalism the staff adapted to each change and got on with their teaching despite the upheaval. The children also adapted very well to the situation. We are all looking forward to seeing the completion of the building work in September.*

**Miriam Smyth – Principal**

### School Ethos

Saint Michael's National School is a co-educational National School under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe, the present Patron being the Very Right Reverend Doctor Kenneth Kearon.

Our staff, in conjunction with the church upholds the ethos. Our children attend assembly each Wednesday in Saint Michael's Church. Our assemblies are led by the following leaders: Dean Niall Sloane, Rev. Edna Wakely, Sean Roys, Kevin Fitzgibbon, John Stanfield and Paul Ritchie.

### Board of Management

**Patron's Nominee / Chairperson** – The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane

**Community Nominee/Treasurer** – Brian Gaffney

**Teachers' Nominee** - Sally Fossitt

**Patron's Nominee** - Jennifer O'Leary

**Principal** – Miriam Smyth

**Community Nominee** - Keith Benson

**Parents' Nominee**- Brian Beck

**Parents' Nominee**- Caroline Ritchie

**2018/2019 was another busy and active year for the Board of Management of our school.  
The following summarises our work**

### **Curricular Development**

The teachers completed in-service training on the New Primary Languages Curriculum. Further training will be provided next year which will result in at least one closure in term 1 and some additional half days.

The Stay Safe Policy was devised this year and following on from this the teachers will engage with the professional development team in the PDST before the end of this school year to upskill in the area of SPHE and RSE.

School Self Evaluation – The staff have re-engaged with SSE. The focus area is Literacy- specifically - vocabulary development.

### **Health & Safety**

At the start of each term the teachers carry out a health and safety audit of the school, schoolyard and grounds. All maintenance issues are addressed in a timely manner.

The playground has been divided into two separate areas (Juniors-1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>) The staff feel that this is working well.

A fire drill is carried out once per term as standard practice. This year additional fire drills were required due to the building reconfiguration as a result of building works.

### **Child Protection**

The school's Designated Liaison Person is the school Principal Miriam Smyth. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Sally Fossitt. They are legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to TUSLA.

### **Staffing 2019/2020**

For 2019/2020 we will have the same allocation of teachers. 5 Mainstream Teachers and 2 Special Education Teachers. Our Principal is a teaching principal. We will share a part-time Special Education Teacher with Limerick School Project. We also have 2 SNA's – One for the infant school day and one for the full school day.

### **Policy Development**

The following policies were developed/reviewed & ratified:

Admissions Policy

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Code of Behaviour

Data Protection Policy

Mobile Phone Policy

SNA Policy

Stay Safe Policy

Supervision Policy

Substance Abuse Policy

Whistle Blower Policy

### **School Tours**

The students all enjoyed their tours immensely.

Junior/Senior Infants – The Old Rectory

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class – Seedsavers

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class – The Burren

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class- UL Activity Centre Killaloe

6<sup>th</sup> Class Mystery Tour – Takes place in June

### **Croke Park Hours**

Both teachers and Special Needs Assistants have completed their commitment to work their Croke Park Hours for 2018/2019.

### **TUSLA Reporting on Pupil Attendance**

The school completed all mandatory reports to Tusla regarding pupil attendance and we will complete the End of Year report at the end of June.

### **Fundraising**

Various fundraising events took place in aid of the school, with much help from the PTA and the staff of Saint Michael's National School. Many thanks to all who fundraised. Some of the events were-

Monster Cake Sale

History talk

Carol Singing

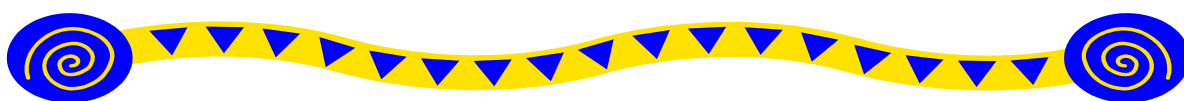
Table Quiz

Christmas performances in school

Clothes collection

Lunchtime concert by the school choir

Family Fun Evening



### **Parent Teacher Association**

Chairperson – Mary Gilmartin

Secretary- Niamh Fry

Treasurer – Mesfin Abebe

We are very grateful to all of the parents who take the time to get involved in the PTA. Their dedication to our school is fantastic.

### **School Enrolments**

We have 128 pupils currently on roll. There are 16 children in 6<sup>th</sup> class moving on to secondary school in June.

Projected Enrolment for Junior Infants for Sept 2019 is 14 pupils

### **Standardised Test Results**

The Principal reports the results of the standardised tests in 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class to the Board of Management at the end of each year. These results are also reported to the Department of Education through the POD system.

### **Teacher Class Allocations 2019/2020**

Ms Wallace- Junior Infants

Ms Smyth – Senior Infants and First

Ms McMahon – Second and Third

Ms Fossitt – Third and Fourth

Ms Moran – Fifth and Sixth

Special Education Teachers – Ms Robinson and Ms Morrow  
Shared SEN with LSP – Ms Meade & Ms Gleeson

Ms Coombs and Ms Hayes are our SNAs.

#### **Building Project**

Thomas Nolan and Sons commenced the building project in January 2019. They have been a pleasure to deal with through every aspect of the project and we look forward to the completion of the works at the end of the summer.

#### **Emergency Works**

Our oil boiler came to the end of its long life and the school applied for funding from the DES to replace it with a more efficient, gas heating system. It was installed by Vincent O'Toole from AV Plumbing. Our new system is reliable and works brilliantly.

#### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ms.McMahon who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in November.

Congratulations also to Ms.Moran who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in March.

May God bless, guide and watch over them.

#### **Information Technology**

Intention to apply – Those wishing to show interest in enrolling in our school are invited to fill out the Intention to apply form on the school website.

Digital Learning Plan – The staff formalised the digital learning plan this year. Many elements of the plan have been set up over the past two years. The plan sets out our targets over a 5-year timeframe.

Digi Tech Classes – The school engaged the services of Birchwater Education who worked with children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. The children learned about 3-D imaging, image editing, stop motion, time lapse and much more.

### **Board Finances**

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with the Department of Education and Skills requirements. At each Board of Management meeting the treasurer furnishes the board with a detailed report on finances.

### **Staff Training/CPD**

New Languages Curriculum – In Service – Teaching Staff  
PDST – Words of Wonder

Using the primary language curriculum to support SEN  
A Balanced Approach to Literacy – NEPS  
Critical Incident Management – NEPS

Accessing the curriculum for students with Autism

*Many of the teachers also engaged in professional development relating to their profession of teaching outside of school hours.*

### **Word of Thanks**

In the past 12 months our school enjoyed many successes as itemised in our various Newsletters. None of this could have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the whole staff of Saint Michael's National School. Our teachers, SNAs, school secretary and our caretaker all do fantastic work all year round and should be commended for their dedication to our school. The Board of Management would also like to thank the PTA for their tremendous support and trojan work throughout the year.

We look forward to what the next school year will bring.

### **A Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Management**

It is hard to believe that we are once again at the end of another academic year. It has been another active season in the life of Saint Michael's N.S. and there have been notable events throughout. At time of writing the building project is well under way is a great sense of pride and excitement within the school at getting to this stage.

You will see from this report that the Board of Management has had a busy year. Preserving and developing the ethos of the school is another key responsibility of the Board and I am pleased to see the often creative ways that our Church of Ireland tradition is being expressed and developed in response to the significant changes in Irish culture and society. Limerick City Parish enjoys a close and growing friendship which bodes well for the cohesion and integration of our school community. Alongside the religious studies curriculum, the weekly assemblies and end of term services provide excellent opportunities for celebrating and engaging with our shared Christian heritage.

On behalf of the Board of Management I want to express my sincere appreciation to the hardworking, dedicated and committed staff of Saint Michael's, led by the Principal, Ms Miriam Smyth and we congratulate her on her forthcoming marriage.

We also wish to commend the involvement and work of the Parents who so generously give of their time, talents and treasures. To those who organise extra-curricular activities, co-ordinate and facilitate fundraising and those in the wider community who support the school we pay special tribute and say 'Thank you'.

Of course, without pupils there can be no school and I want to thank them for the way they engage in the life of the school. It is our hope and prayer that their experience of Saint Michael's N.S. is one of learning, love and happiness. On a personal note, I am privileged to have the opportunity to speak with them and enjoy my interactions with them as we seek to explore our Christian faith and witness.

Finally, I would like to put on record my appreciation to my fellow Board members who so willingly give of their time and expertise for the benefit of the school. Our work is made easier by Ms Smyth's expertise, professionalism, good humour and the gracious way in which she works alongside the Board.

*The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane*