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Board of Management Annual Report 2022-2023

The purpose of this Board of Management Annual Report 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 Education Act 1998. This Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website www.smnslimerick.ie, the various -newsletters issued by the school and information provided via email and the Aladdin Connect Noticeboard.

A message from the Acting Principal

Another school year is completed and it feels like it was the quickest year yet. I want to thank everyone for their support this year when I took on the role as Acting Principal in January 2023. Huge congratulations to Ms. Kate Gleeson and Ms. Ruth Halpin on the birth of their children. We look forward to welcoming both teachers back in the new school year.

We began this school year by welcoming some new staff members to the team, Mr. David Mc Donnell (Class Teacher), Ms. Lillian Glynn (Principal Release Cluster) and Ms. Maureen Tynne (SNA). Ms. Ann-Marie Mullane was sanctioned as the new Deputy Principal of Saint Michael's N.S. while Ms. Mairéad Doran, Ms. Bríd Stackpoole and Ms. Ruth Halpin became permanent staff members.

Students enjoyed celebrating many events such as European Languages Day, Maths week and Seachtain Na Gaeilge. Music Generation started back in person. The whole school Christmas performance of 'Hosanna Rock' co-ordinated by Mr. Mc Donnell was a great success. Students from Fourth to Sixth Class took part in Peace Proms.

We were delighted to welcome back dancing and hockey coaches. Students participated in a variety of Sports Days in UL, Villiers school and Saint Michael's N.S.

I am really proud of how, as a school community, we worked hard all year to keep each other safe and support each other during the school year. We have undertaken and completed amazing projects this year. It is with great hope that we now look forward to the summer and the next school year.

I want to say a big congratulations to our outgoing sixth class pupils. I also want to extend my thanks to the staff of Saint Michael's N.S. for their positive outlook, dedication to their pupils and willingness to always lend a hand. I would also like to thank the P.T.A., Board of Management and parents for their support throughout the year.

Board of Management

Patron Nominee / Chairperson – The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane
Community Nominee / Treasurer – Neil Keane
Teachers' Nominee – Sheelagh Morrow
Parent Nominee – Anne Holmes Siddle
Secretary / (Acting)Principal – Kate Gleeson/ Ann-Marie Mullane
Patron Nominee – Deirdre Doogan
Parent Nominee– Brian Beck
Community Nominee– Niall Hanley

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 Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, the present Patron being **the Right Reverend Michael Burrows**.

Our staff, in conjunction with the church upholds the ethos. The pupils attend assembly each Wednesday. Our assemblies are led by the following leaders: **Dean Niall Sloane, the Rev'd Dr Leonard Madden**.

Under the patronage of the Church of Ireland

Saint Michael's National School, 11, Barrington Street, Limerick V94 A0K7

Parent Teacher Association

Chairperson: Susan Pena

Treasurer: Karen Harkin

Secretary: Bijal and Shane McSweeney

Committee Members: Miryam Amigo Benavent, Dearbhla Acheson, Kathrine Barnecutt

Teacher nominee: Mairéad Doran

Our Parent Teacher Association have been very busy this year supporting our school. The committee have been meeting regularly and organised a number of fundraisers to help meet the cost of a number of school projects.

The PTA organised a raffle and a gathering before the Christmas performance . After Easter, they held a coffee afternoon in conjunction with the Annual Bake Sale. Parents were delighted to meet for cake and a chat in school.

The highlight of the PTA activities was the Family Fun Evening in June. Families enjoyed a magic show, second-hand sale, outdoor games, art display, school choir, bake sale, barbeque, teas and coffees, nail art, tattoos and an ice-cream van. It was wonderful for so many families and teachers to meet up on such a beautiful summer's evening.

The PTA wish to thank the staff and parents of the school for supporting their activities and look forward to more events next year.

School Tours

We were so happy to finally get back to school tours this year and all classes had a great time.

The classes went on the following schools tours this year:

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class: Stonehall Farm

Second and Third Class: Fit4fun Activity Camp

Fourth and Fifth Class: Bowling, McDonalds, Petmania and the Cinema

Sixth Class: Bowling, pizza making and Nevesail

Croke Park Hours

Both teachers and special needs assistants have completed their commitment to work their Croke Park Hours for 2022/2023.

Child Protection

The school's Designated Liaison Person is the school Principal Kate Gleeson. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Ann-Marie Mullane. They are legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to TUSLA. At each Board meeting, the Principal presents the Board with the Principal's Oversight Report.

Health & Safety

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

Our Health and Safety Policy was reviewed and ratified during this school year.

A fire drill was carried out in each term.

School-Based Summer Programme

We are delighted to be offering a school-based summer inclusion programme this year. This is the second year that Saint Michael's N.S. has been able to offer a school-based programme, thanks to the widening of the eligibility criteria. The programme will run for two weeks. There will be two classes this year. Jade Purcell, William Duddy, Zara Harris, Maureen Tynne and Caoimhe Kavanagh will work on the programme this year. They will be joined each day by a permanent member of Saint Michael's Staff who will act as an overseer for the programme.

Curricular Development

Primary Languages Curriculum

All staff engaged with training provided specifically focused on implementing the new Primary Language Curriculum. . We will continue to work with the PDST next year on this.

School Self Evaluation (SSE) / School Improvement Plan

The staff in Saint Michael's developed the school improvement plan for Literacy. Two staff members attended training to support the inclusion of Wellbeing in the school improvement plan. This plan will focus on oral language development through Critical Literacy Talks and the staff plan to implement structured programme entitled 'Weaving Wellbeing' to promote wellbeing at a whole school level.

Whole school curricular planning

The In-School Management (ISM) team of Kate Gleeson, Ann Marie Mullane, Maria Robinson and Mairéad Doran have been working together to look at whole school curricular planning. The introduction of the Primary Curriculum Framework for Primary and Special schools will inform the review and development of curricular policy.

Class Allocations

Our staff recruitment is currently ongoing. All parents will be informed of their class teacher as soon as this process is complete. The class splits for next year will be as follows:

Junior & Senior Infants
Senior Infants/First Class
2nd/3rd Class
4th/5th Class
5th/6th Class

Staffing 2022/2023

For 2022/2023 we will have

- 5 Mainstream Teachers
- 2 Special Education Teachers
- 1 part time shared Special Education Teacher
- 1 EAL teacher
- 2 SNAs – for the full school day

EAL

The school has retained our additional teaching post for September 2023. This teacher will be responsible for helping children who have English as an Additional Language. This will be an invaluable resource for our school as we have a high number of children for whom English is their 2nd and in some cases 3rd language.

Principal Release Day Cluster

This year we were the base school for a cluster of five schools. Ms Lillian Glynn was employed to travel between the schools in the cluster covering for the principal for administration days.

Unfortunately, this cluster will not continue in 2023/2024 school year. An alternative plan will be in place.

School Enrolments

There are 18 children in 6th class moving on to secondary school in June.

Projected Enrolment for Junior Infants for September 2023 is 20 pupils.

TUSLA Reporting on Pupil Attendance

The school completed all mandatory reports for Tusla regarding pupil attendance and we will complete the end of year report on the last day of school.

Staff Training/CPD

A huge amount of professional development has been undertaken by staff this year. This is just a summary of the courses completed.

- Exploring Pupil Planning across the Continuum of Support
- Reading Simplified
- Toe by Toe training
- Collaborative Play with Lego
- Epilepsy Ireland Awareness training
- Supporting Struggling Readers
- The Science of Reading - What's a Heart word anyway?
- Write to Learn
- Picturebooks and the Primary Language Curriculum
- Webinars on Accelerated Reader
- The Regulated Classroom LEC
- Dyspraxia LEC
- Assistive Technology LEC
- NEPS Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers 2-part course
- Anxiety in Children (5-12 years) ISPC, Children's author Katie O'Donoghue and ESCI.
- Classroom management and Organisation
- Long and short term planning for the mainstream classroom.
- Using decodable readers in the classroom.
- Phonics inside the infant classroom.
- Getting started with Beebots for the junior and middle classes
- Certificate in Religious Education (Church of Ireland).
- Placing Well-Being & Mental Health at the Heart of Your Teaching
- Supporting Children with Autism in the Primary Classroom: A Practical Approach Community of Practice
- First Aid Fundamentals Training Course for Schools



Blast

The pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th class completed a collaborative Art project, having successfully been granted the BLAST Art Residency Grant from the Arts Council. The project was carried out under the guidance of our resident artist, Chelsea Canavan. The project aimed to showcase and celebrate the diversity in our school community. Each child was tasked to source one item of either historical, cultural, personal or familial significance at home. The children responded creatively and artistically to these items and together, we created an exhibition of their work. The children chose from a variety of artistic mediums to showcase their work including sculpture, clay, animation, painting, drama, acting and script writing. The projects will be available to view digitally on the school website in September.

Policy Development

The following policies were developed/reviewed & ratified:

- Covid Response Plan, Statement and Assessment - review
- School Reopening Plan - review
- Child Safeguarding Statement and annual review
- Anti-Bullying annual review
- Health and Safety annual & termly reviews
- Parent School Communication
- Arrival and Dismissal
- Admissions Policy- review
- Code of Behaviour- review
- Electronic Banking Policy- new policy

Student Council

The Student Council(SC) has been an excellent addition to the school community this year. Ms Gleeson (lead teacher of SC, later taken over by Ms Stackpoole) was set up in September. Our elected Committee were Connie, Eric, Sophie, Alexander, Noah, Kate, Yeamlak and Ruth. The Student Council undertook many projects this year such as fundraisers for the Sensory Garden and choosing yard markings. The SC also celebrated inclusion by asking all children to wear odd socks on World Down Syndrome Day. We are all very proud and grateful for the hard work the SC have put into the school this year.

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 furnished the board with a detailed report on finances. Accounts are audited each year. End of year financial report is available for viewing on request.

Schoolbooks Grant for Primary and Special Schools

From September 2023, parents of children in primary school and special schools do not have to purchase school books, workbooks or copybooks. Saint Michael's N.S. will purchase and provide the free books on loan using the School Book Grant that has been paid to schools by the Department of Education and Skills.

Chairman's Report

I'm penning these words just days after the end of year service and what a joyful occasion that was. I was reflecting afterwards and realise that our 6th Class graduates were just beginning 1st class when I first arrived into Saint Michael's – how time flies.

A report like this is a good opportunity to reflect on the year past and celebrate all that has been achieved. Two of our staff members have welcomed new members into their families and we want to express our congratulations to Ms Glesson and Ms Halpin.

The Patron paid a visit to the school during the year and endeared himself to staff and pupil alike. His visit emphasises the ethos of the school and the role he plays within the life of it school, and it was wonderful to hear stories from the Bishop's school days.

Preserving and developing the ethos of the school is a key responsibility of the Board and I am pleased to see the 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 Kate Gleeson. As Ms Gleeson is on maternity leave at present, I want to pay particular thanks to Ms Ann-Marie Mullane who is presently acting Principal and who has been performing the role with wisdom, diligence and grace. I also thank my fellow Board members for the time and expertise they invest into Saint Michael's.

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, act as class representatives, 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 is one of learning, love and happiness.

The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane
Chairman of the Board of Management.