



Barefield National School
Board of Management – Annual Report 2018-'19
To
Parents & Staff



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 Barefield 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.barefieldns.com, the various Newsletters issued by the school, circulars to parents, the School Prospectus, textaparent, Induction morning, Booklet for Parents of Infants Starting School and information provided to parents at parent teacher meetings.

2018-2019 was another busy and active year for the Board of Management of our school with the following summaries of our work:

Board of Management 2018/'19

Chairperson – John Casey
Treasurer – Carole Frawley
Secretary – John Burns
PRO Officer – Peadar McMahon
Health, Safety, Vetting and Child Protection Officer – Sharon Meaney
Fund Raising Co-Ordinator – Paul Whitmore
School Maintenance Officer – Brian Dilleen
School Premises Officer - Patricia Blake

School Ethos

We aim at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. We are an inclusive Catholic school. Our staff work in conjunction with Canon Caimín O'Carroll and Fr. Jerry Carey to uphold our Catholic ethos. During the past year 38 pupils received the sacrament of First Holy Communion while 54 pupils received the sacrament of Confirmation. A Christmas Nativity Play was held in December 2018. The school marks the various Religious Feasts and Festivals throughout the year.

Curricular Development

The following curricular Reports were approved:

- Numeracy Report 2018-19;
- Literacy Report 2018-19;
- School Self Evaluation Improvement Report 2018-2019.

Legislative and Regulatory Policies were reviewed and approved, as per Checklist.

Our school staff is continuing to actively re-engage in the SSE process.

Aistear, Literacy Lift Off and Mata sa Rang are on-going in our school.

Standardised Test results were also presented, discussed and analysed.

ASD Class

After due consideration, the introduction of an ASD Class/Unit was unanimously agreed by the Board of Management.

Looking at Our School 2016

This document is now being discussed at various Board meeting with the emphasis being placed on: 'Managing the Organisation' and the Standards required.



Barefield National School

Board of Management – Annual Report 2018-‘19

To Parents & Staff



Policy Development

New Policies approved were:

- SNA Policy Pack
- Digital Usage & Internet Safety Policy
- Internet Use
- Forbairt : Managing Challenging Behaviour
- Partnership Schools
- SEN Policy
- ASD Enrolment Policy
- Results of GDPR Audit
- Understanding and Living the Catholic Ethos

Policies for Annual Review that were approved were:

- Admissions Enrolment Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy.....annual review completed
- Attendance Policy / Strategy
- Statement of Strategy for School Attendance
- Child Protection annual review completed
- Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Code of Behaviour

Legislative, regulatory and curricular policies were also reviewed and approved.

Organisational and Administrative Policies were presented and approved.

Board Finances

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with the Department of Education and Skills requirements.

The Board approved the appointment of Curtin O’Friel and Company as new school Accountants, as and from September 2019.

The Treasurer issues financial reports re Account Balances at each Board of Management meeting. The accounts are computerised by Miriam Brennan, our office Financial Administrator.

Additional funds were provided by very successful fund raising initiatives such as: Flag Day and Bag Packing Day.

Our Parents’ Association is also very proactive in providing much needed funds.

Maintenance Concerns

A Maintenance Report outlining general maintenance issues / concerns is discussed at each Board meeting. Any maintenance problem is promptly rectified. An Emergency Works grant was approved for repairing a leaking roof over classrooms 4 and 8.

Summer Building Projects

The following three projects have been approved by the Board of Management and St. Senan’s Education Office to be undertaken this summer by Custy Construction Ltd.:

- Roofing of pre-fabricated structure
- Transferring of computer room to pre-fab 1
- Alterations to Classroom 1 to become ASD classroom

PRO Reports

A PRO Report was issued after each Board meeting and uploaded to our school website for our school community to read.

School Premises Report.....After School Activities

A Report is presented at each Board meeting in relation to the use of our facilities.

In line with Department Circular Letter 16/05: ‘The Sharing of School Facilities with the Community’, the Board requires any individual or organisation availing of our school facilities to complete a Policy Document and a License Agreement.

Health, Safety, Vetting & Child Protection

A Report is presented at each Board meeting in relation to these matters.

For diseases that cause high alert, a Doctor’s certificate will now be required for a pupil’s return to school.

Board members attended Child Protection training.

Staff also received training and in-service in Child Protection matters.

A Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Policies were approved by March 11th.

The Principal presents a ‘Child Protection Oversight Report’ covering all areas of the D.E.S. Procedures 2017, namely 9.5; 9.6; 9.7; 9.8.

Croke Park Hours

Both teachers and Special Needs Assistants have completed their commitment to work their Croke Park Hours for 2018-19.

Correspondence

Both Department Circulars and general correspondence were discussed, with appropriate replies / plans of action decided, as necessary.



Barefield National School
Board of Management – Annual Report 2018-'19
To
Parents & Staff



Staffing

For 2019/2020, our school will have an Administrative Principal, 15 class/mainstream teachers, 6 Special Education Teachers, 1 Cluster teacher, 8.66 SNA posts, 2 administrative staff, 1 caretaker/cleaner.

Child Protection

The school Designated Liaison Person is the school Principal, Mr. John Burns. He is legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to the TUSLA Local Area Child Manager.

Board of Management Meetings

Board meetings were held on the following dates:

- 27-07-2018
- 16-10-2018
- 14-11-2018
- 07-12-2018
- 13-12-2018
- 04-02-2019
- 21-05-2019
- 22-07-2019

TUSLA Reporting on pupil attendance

The school is required to make two reports annually. All pupils who exceed 20 days cumulative absence must be included in these absence reports.

Attendance referrals are made where the school has a concern in relation to a pupil's non-attendance at school.

The school's Deputy Principal is in charge of these referrals.

Middle Management....New Initiative

During 2018-2019, the Board introduced a major review of Middle Management duties.

All Post Holders' duties are now aligned with the terms and criteria of the document: *Looking at our School 2016*.

Parental Review & Observations

The school Board and staff invite parental contributions on school curriculum, organisational and administrative development.

Any suggestions/recommendations are welcome and can be emailed to: info@barefieldns.com or to john.burns@barefieldns.com.

These suggestions will be discussed at both staff / Board meetings.

Words of Thanks

The Board of Management conveys sincerest thanks to all the teachers who work so hard and give the children so many opportunities to develop their talents. All our teachers deserve special praise for their flexibility and willingness to participate in after-school activities. In the past 12 months our school enjoyed many successes as itemised in our various Newsletters. The Board would like to take this opportunity to applaud the excellent work being done in implementing the new Primary Language Curriculum. The Board of Management would also like to thank the Parents' Association for their tremendous support and trojan work throughout the year. Thanks in particular to our Students' Council, for the very important contribution they have made to school projects during the year. Both the Parents' Association and the Students' Council play highly supportive and active roles in our school. A huge 'bualadh bos' to our Active Schools Committee and Green Schools Committee who had our school 'buzzing' with activities during the year.

Conclusion

May I take this opportunity to wish all parents, staff and children a most enjoyable summer holiday and a well-deserved rest.

Bainigí go léir taitneamh as laethanta saoire an tsamhraidh.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

John Casey (Chairperson, Board of Management)

23-07-2019