



Annual School Report June 2018

The Board of Management is the school committee charged with the day-to-day management of the school. Under the Education Act of 1998 all schools must have a Board of Management and the functions and responsibilities of the Board are laid out in documents published by the Department of Education and Science.

The Board of Management has eight members. The current Board of Management, as formed in September 2015

Ms. Imelda Byrne	Patron's Nominee and Chairperson
Frank Keane	School Principal
Fr. Malachy Hallinan	Patron's Nominee
Terry Cooke	Parents' Nominee
Brian Ferguson	Teachers' Nominee
Danili Kosgahakumbura	Parents' Nominee
Ms. Eleanor Costello	Community Representative
Mr. Keith O'Neill	Community Representative

The Board is in its last year of its current term and there have been significant changes to the Board since it was formed initially. The Board has co-opted three new members over the period for a variety of reasons. Fr. Malachy retired and Terry had work commitments in the evening time while Keith had personal and professional changes which meant he wasn't in a position to attend regularly. The school community is indebted to them for the work they did on behalf of the school.

The current composition of the Board is as follows:.

Ms.Imelda Byrne	Patron's Nominee and Chairperson
Fr. Kevin Keenan	Patron's Nominee
Frank Keane	School Principal
Brian Ferguson	Teachers' Nominee
Seamus Burke	Parents' Nominee
Danili Kosgahakumbura	Parents' Nominee
Ms. Eleanor Costello	Community Representative
Mr. Gerard Curran	Community Representative

The Board met on five occasions during the school year.

1. **Policy Reviews:**

The following policies were reviewed and amended as necessary

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- English Plan
- Maths Plan
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Health and Safety
- DEIS Plan
- Gender and Equity Statement
- Developing the Oral Language Programme

The Board on the recommendation from school agreed to set up a new DEIS plan to run from September 2017 to June 2020 and focus on the key areas of Numeracy, Literacy, Attendance and Parental Involvement. The Board also sanctioned an extra member of staff to the Maths Recovery team.

The Board sanctioned an online system for reporting bullying incidents. There is a blue button on the school website www.scoilbhrideshantalla.ie that generates a reporting tool once clicked giving members of the school community an opportunity to report on line and there is a dedicated chain of command within school to process these reports.

As support to our Music curriculum the Board agreed continued funding for the 'Colour Strings' programme.

The Attendance strategy for the school was revised during the year. The school has two important programmes that are essential for improved Attendance and these are 'Every day Counts initiative and our 'In the line for ten to nine' strategy punctuality strategy..

An amendment was made to our Code of behaviour clarifying the parents rights to appeal suspensions and expulsions

A major Health and Safety audit was undertaken by external professionals and a new Health and safety document has been prepared and adopted by the Board..

A copy of the staff Allocation for the 2017-2018 school year and the class allocation for 2018-2019 school year are included in Appendix 1 of this document.

The Board of Management and Staff have identified a huge weakness in the development of Irish in the school. The school will concentrate on developing a realistic programme of Irish provision over the next three years. Irish is now a major part of our School Self Evaluation programme.

The Board were involved with 5 major Department of Education Initiatives this year:

- The introduction of the Oral language Programme
- The new NCSE model for Special Education Teaching
- The Revised Child Protection Guidelines.
- The compliance with GDPR
- The re-engagement with SSE.

The School Meals Programme was run for the school year.v

2. School Development:

We introduced the new Primary Language Curriculum in Infants to 2nd classes, with its introduction of Oral Language from 3rd to 6th Classes planned for September.

Literacy 2017-2018: Along with all our other Literacy initiatives this year saw a very exciting development in terms of literacy in Scoil Bhríde. In line with world-wide best practice, we have decided to cease teaching formal reading to our Junior Infant children. The time formerly spent on reading will now be spent on an expanded programme of Reading Readiness activities and on Oral Language. This will insure that the children are much better prepared for when reading instruction begins in Senior Infants.

The focus for Numeracy in the past year was the Measure Strand of the Maths Curriculum. The emphasis this year focused on practical work in the classroom and emphasis on the children as active learners. Also another teacher was identified for Maths Recovery Training and will be part of the Numeracy support team for next year.. Project Maths students from NUI Galway observed Numeracy classes and then supported the children around maths in the school's Homework clubs . The focus for 2018-2019 will be on Maths language.

The HSCL Coordinator was available throughout the school year to meet parents in school, in their homes and assist them avail of family, personal and educational supports. A number of free courses were made available to parents in the area of well-being (fitness class, yoga, mindfulness, couch to 5km, nutrition) and new skills were learnt in classes provided in English, Cooking, First Aid and Make-Up.

Parents were invited to talks on Art Therapy, Connecting Emotionally with your Child and Internet Safety. They were also involved in the literacy based programme 'Doodle families' and the 'One book, One Galway' project

Coffee mornings were held for the parents before talks/courses, after their child's Christmas show and for the junior infants open day. Parents engaged in International day by setting up stalls and being active participants in the show.

SPHE: The school operated the revised guidelines in full this year.

3. Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings took place as usual in November 2018 and school reports were completed for all children in school in the last term. Standardised testing was completed in Spelling, Literacy and Numeracy.

4. School Buildings:

The Health and Safety audit identified some serious concerns with our building structures. The Temporary Accommodation prefabricated buildings at the rear of the school can no longer be used. These will now be taken out of commission as the report deemed them unsafe. There is also an issue in the main building with mould developing in some rooms. The Department have been forwarded copies of the audit and the recommendations for immediate action. Our

engineer has forwarded the relevant professional documentation to the DES as well and has outlined the plan of action that needs to be put in place. The lack of room space will have implications in the next school year. The Department have yet to respond to us in relation to the issues raised. Further action will follow based on Departmental advice.

5. Finance

The school has a major problem with Finance at present. There is no local contribution coming from our school community so outside Department grants the school relies on fundraising initiatives. Most of these are run by the Parents Association and involve cake sales which fund specific events. This impacts greatly on the school. The Board of Management have put steps in place to try and create a more transparent and efficient system in place. An accountant has now been appointed by the Board to review, manage and report to the Board with a view to seeing where savings can be made and to increase the funding available to programmes in the school. Major fundraising events will have to take place in the next school year to supplement the funding from DES grants. The school books have been sent to the Auditors to bring our accounts completely up to date.

6. School Staffing:

We lost one school position for the 2017-2018 school year and have retained the same number of staff for the 2018-2019. A list of the staff is included in Appendix 1. The two most senior teachers in the school are retiring. Ms. Mulgannon and Ms. Divilly (Lavin) will both retire at the end of the current year. This will leave a significant gap in the management team as Ger was Deputy Principal and Mary was an Assistant Principal 1. The loss is significant as while Ger will be replaced as Deputy Principal Mary's position will not be filled as we no longer meet the criteria under the DES Circular for this position. There will be a wealth of experience lost to the school and pressure on the ISMT to fill duties that Mary had in her portfolio. There will also be changes to the ISMT next year as all posts will now be reviewed in light of the pending appointment of a new Deputy Principal.

7. Programmes In Scoil Bhríde

There are many and varied programmes running both during and After School. These Programmes include:

- Creative Nation. Specifically for children with a diagnosis of dyslexia.
- Woodwork through GRETB Cooperation Hours Scheme.
- Art Therapy.
- Gardening and the School Garden.
- Gross and Fine Motor Skill groups
- Aistear in the Infant Level.
- Cookery.
- Galway Community Circus Programme in 5th. Class
- UNI4U with NUI Galway (4th. To 6th. Classes)
- Challenge to Change Developmental Education Programme (5th. And 6th.)
- Lego League
- CFES Programme (5th. & 6th)
- Literacy Club with NUI Galway (4th.)
- Drama Club (3rd. To 6th.)
- School Band
- Woodwork through GRETB Cooperation Hours Scheme.
- Homework Clubs (NUI Service Learning Centre)
- Sports Programme (Hurling, Football. Soccer, Athletics. Motor Skills)
- Green School Committee
- SCP Transition to Secondary School Programme
- IT and Movie Making programme (Mr. White)
- CFES Mentoring Programme

8. Awards:

The school has received two prestigious awards in 2017-2018. The school received the Trinity College 21st Century School of Distinction Award and the school also became one of 15 Ashoka Changemaker schools in Ireland. The school also received a FÍS award for its filmmaking programme. Our school is a Digital School of Distinction. Senior Classes attended NUI Galway for Graduation ceremony for UNI4U. The School Band are Galway and Connacht Ceoltas marching band champions for a second year in a row in .

9. Agency Involvement

The school has been working with the following agencies –EWO, SCP, NEPS, CAMHS, NYP/WFS, NUI Access Office, NUI Service Learning Department, CFES Trinity College Access Office ,CYPSC and the HSE Social Work Department this year. The involvement has included work in relation to Attendance, Behaviour, Mentoring Strategies to support for our children in a variety of different ways, funding for In-school and After School projects. It also included identifying a target list for SCP personnel in our school.

10. Professional Development for Teachers

Staff received one more day of training in the Revised Language Curriculum.

All staff completed Child Protection Training in March 2018.

Staff completed Fire Safety Training in April & May 2018.

Ms. McGrath completed the Diploma in Special Education in NUI Galway.

Ms. Moran and Mr. ferguson completed a post graduate in 21 Century teaching and Learning in Trinity College.

11. Conferences:

Frank and Adrian Carey attended the CFES conference in Burlington , Vermont

Frank attended the Ashoka Changemaker Conference in Lyon, France.

12. School Celebrations

The school celebrated Presentation Day with our sister school in Newcastle rd. in November.

Fourth Class presented the Christmas Pageant in the Sacred heart Church in December.

Infant Plays were performed in the school to a packed hall in december.

The Band participated in the St. patrick's Day parade in March.

The School Drama Group performed to a sold out audience in the Taibhearc in April.

The Confirmation and Communion programmes were celebrated in May

An International Day celebrating our diverse population and their culture and traditions was held in school in May.

Retirement events were held in school to celebrate the teaching careers of Ms. Mulgannon and Ms. Divilly in June.

Parents Association: 2017-2018

Joanna Moran	Chairperson
Ivonna Kania	Secretary 1
Kathleen Delaney	Secretary 2
Breda Myers	Treasurer 1
Catherine Doyle	Treasurer 2
Kate Corcoran	Committee Member
Lisa McCaffrey	Committee Member
Valerie O Neill	Committee Member
Marwa Ghoneim	Committee Member
Kathleen Cawley	Committee Member
Lynda Rossborough	Committee Member
Sarah Anderhub	Committee Member
Ryszard Lomnicki	Committee Member

An active Parents Association was involved in fundraising for Scoil Bhríde by hosting two cake sales during the year. They also spearheaded a bumper raffle to raise money to fund a sensory area for the school. They organised an activity for the children for Halloween, helped out with St Patrick's Day Parade preparations, set up a Christmas themed room with a visit from Santa for the children, organised the refreshments and a disco room for sports day and did the catering

for 6th class parents for graduation night. They were involved in policy formation for the school's Health and Safety Plan and First Aid.

Parents Association: 2018-2019

Caroline Matthews	Chairperson
Catherine Doyle	Secretary
Breda Myers	Treasurer
Helen Doyle	Committee Member
Kate Corcoran	Committee Member
Lisa McCaffrey	Committee Member
Valerie O Neill	Committee Member
MargaretMaughan	Committee Member
Samantha Dresman	Committee Member
Kathleen Delaney	Committee Member
Paramita Daz	Committee Member
Helena Rodrigues de Godoi	Committee Member

Class Allocation 2017-2018

Early Start: Mary O Loughlin

Junior Infants: Tilda Egan

Junior/Senior Inf: Fiona O Driscoll

Senior Infants: Yvonne Walsh

First: Collette Furey (Bernie Hynes replaces Collette who is on Career Break)

Second: Dorothy Coyne (Kay Lowry to sub for Dot's Maternity Leave)

Second: Tomasina Brosnan (Replace Ger H on Career Break)

Third: Stella McGrath (Teacher Exchange with Ger Brogan)

Third/Fourth: Padraic O Connell

Fourth: Miriam Duggan

Fifth: Robin White

Sixth: Mike Hannelly (Filling in for Job Share arrangement)

Resource Support Team

RST 1: Matt O Connell

RST 2: Mary Cunningham

RST 3:(EAL): Adrian Carey

RST 4: Helen Lavin

RST 5: Rena Casey

RST 6: Ger Mulgannon

RST 7: Liz Hanrahan

RST 8: Aoife Bruen/ Grainne Ferry (Job- Share)

RST 9: Jacinta Moran

RST 10: Mary Divilly

RST 11: Brian Ferguson

RST 12: Anne McGrath

Special Class: (MGLD): Pat Strain

HSLO: Ger Fahy

Class Allocation 2018-2019

Early Start: Mary O Loughlin

Junior Infants: Caoilfhionn De Bhaldrathe (Adrian Carey)

Junior/Senior Inf: Dorothy Coyne

Senior Infants: Yvonne Walsh/ Fiona O Driscoll

First: Sarah Jane O Hanlon (covering Fiona and Yvonne)

Second: Ger Healy (Tomasina covers for Career Break)

Third: Collette Furey (Aileen O Reilly)

Third/Fourth: Padraic O Connell

Fourth: Miriam Duggan

Fifth: Robin White

Sixth: Mike Hannelly

Resource Support Team

RST 1: Matt O Connell (Literacy Support)

RST 2: Mary Cunningham (Literacy Support)

RST 3:(EAL): Grainne Ferry (Literacy Support)

RST 4: Helen Lavin (Numeracy Support)

RST 5: Rena Casey (Numeracy Support)

RST 6: Tilda Egan (Numeracy Support)

RST 7: Liz Hanrahan

RST 8: Aoife Bruen

ST 9: Jacinta Moran

RST 10: Stella McGrath (Teacher Exchange with Ger Brogan)

RST 11: Brian Ferguson

RST 12: Anne McGrath

Special Class: (MGLD): Pat Strain

HSLO: Ger Fahy