

Holy Family Junior School

Board of Management – Annual Report 2017-2018

The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide a summary of information on the operation of Holy Family Junior School in line with the requirements of the 1998 Education Act.

The Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website, www.holyfamilyjuniorschool.com, the monthly newsletters issued by the school, letters to parents, textparent, Induction evening, booklet for parents of new pupils and information provided to parents at parent teacher meetings.

2017-2018 was another busy and active year for the Board of Management and staff of Holy Family Junior School. Please find below a summary of the work carried out during this academic year:

Board of Management 2017-2018

Chairperson	–	John O'Byrne
Treasurer	–	Allen Flynn
Secretary	–	Sharon Dilger
Minutes Secretary	–	Michael Kelly
Teacher Rep	–	Geraldine Normoyle
Parent Reps	–	Mairéad Morgan Ger Nix
Health and Safety Officer	–	Brendan Duggan

Policy Development

The following policies were developed/reviewed and ratified during the year: Child Protection, Health and Safety, Anti-bullying, Supervision and Intimate Care. The Child Safeguarding Statement was ratified in March following a risk assessment audit. A special thank you to all members of the school community who contributed with this work.

School Ethos

Holy Family Junior School is an inclusive catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Killaloe, Fr. Fintan Monahan. Our school welcomes and enrolls pupils of other faiths or of no faiths and respects their beliefs and practices.

Curricular Development

Aistear, Reading Recovery, Literacy Lift Off, Guided Reading, Mata sa Rang and the Incredible Years' Behaviour Management Programme continue to operate and develop in our school. An Oral Language Pilot Programme was launched with station teaching for oral Language in the infant classes. This will be further developed next year.

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Staffing

The Board of Management recognises and applauds the outstanding hard work of our teaching staff and special needs assistants, who are very dedicated to their work and who also are most flexible and professional in their approach to their work. A special word of thanks to our caretakers and school secretary, for helping to maintain such excellent standards in our school.

For 2018-2019 our school will have seven mainstream class teachers, three special class teachers, eight special education/support teachers, ten special needs assistants, school secretary, two caretakers, administrative principal, part time play therapist and part time art therapist.

Board of Management Meetings

The Board of Management meets at least five times a year and more often if needed. Outside of these meetings, the Chairperson and the Principal meet regularly in relation to school matters. The Treasurer meets with the Principal and School Secretary once a month to discuss finances. The Health and Safety Officer on the board meets with the Deputy Principal before every Board meeting.

Board meetings were held on the following dates:

- 17th October 2017
- 12th December 2017
- 20th February 2018
- 13th March 2018
- 13th June 2018

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association continue to play a very important role in Holy Family Junior School. They organised numerous fund raising activities as well as helping out at all school events.

Finance

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with Department of Education and Skills guidelines. The Treasurer issues financial reports re account balances at each Board of management meeting. Our school accountant certifies our accounts annually.

The Board is very aware of the impact that ongoing government cutbacks in funding are having on the school and is extremely grateful to the Parents' Association and staff who organise and support fundraising events for the school.

Charities supported this year include Down Syndrome Ireland,

TUSLA Reporting on Pupil Attendance

The school completed all mandatory reports and end of year report to TUSLA. The Deputy Principal also met regularly with the Educational Welfare Officer.

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Special Class for Pupils with Autism

In September 2017, we set up a Special Class for Pupils with Autism. We already had two other special classes, a Special Class for the Deaf and a Special Class for Speech and Language. There are six pupils enrolled in the ASD class. The teacher continues to participate in specialised professional development for working with pupils with autism. Two new SNAs were appointed for this class. We attended a one day whole school training seminar run by the Department of Education for schools with newly set up Special Classes for Pupils with Autism.

Professional Development of Staff

The Board would like to recognise the very high level of continuous professional development of the staff of Holy family Junior School. This commitment to ongoing CPD was acknowledged in our extremely positive Whole School Evaluation Report published on the Department of Education's website last summer. The Board is committed to supporting the staff to continue their professional development.

IPads

16 IPads were purchased, with an iPad charging and docking trolley. The IT coordinators have worked hard to acquire suitable educational apps which they have downloaded. Classes are timetabled to work with computers and IPads in the computer Room each week.

Child protection

The school Designated Liaison Person is the school principal, Sharon Dilger. The school Deputy Designated Liaison person is deputy school principal, Jane Phillips. They are legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to the TUSLA Local Area Child manager.

Green Flags and Active School Flag

Holy Family Junior School has been awarded five Green Flags and the school is currently working on the 6th flag. The Green Flag ethos is integral to every day school life and the Board would like to commend all the work being done by the Green Schools' Coordinator and Committee.

Having been awarded the Active School Flag last year, the school continues to be committed to being an Active School and the Active School's Week is a very well organised event each year.

Thank You

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, special needs assistants, caretakers, secretary and Parents' Association for their hard work and commitment to Holy family Junior School. May I take this opportunity to wish all the children, staff and parents a safe and restful summer holidays.

Le gach dea-ghuí

John O'Byrne