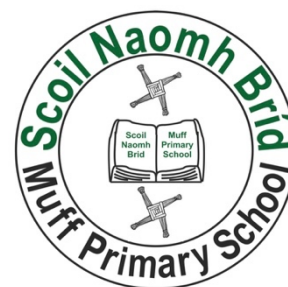


Scoil Naomh Bríd

Board of Management

End of Year Report

June 2019



It has been a very busy year at Scoil Naomh Bríd. In October the school was the subject of a Whole School Evaluation on Management, Leadership and Learning. The Board of Management welcomed the findings of the Department of Education and Skills' inspectorate who reported the following positive findings from the inspection: the pupils of Scoil Naomh Bríd are motivated and highly engaged in their learning; learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy are of a very good standard, pupils' comprehension skills are of a high standard

They noted pupil confidence in song singing and their enthusiasm and competency in playing musical instruments. The inspectors noted that support for pupils with special educational needs is of a high standard in the school. Our staff are very committed to continual professional development and this was highly commended. In teaching methods, they commended the use of co-operative and active learning, excellent questioning, very good project work and that children were given opportunities to agree their own challenging learning objectives. The inspectorate saw effective links between mathematical learning and real-life experiences and the successful development of mathematical language.

They were impressed by the sustained focus on assessment for learning strategies. The respectful and courteous interactions between pupils and between pupils and teachers was also noted. The important contribution that sports, links with external agencies and participation in wellness programmes is making to pupils' well-being was also noted by the inspectors.

Teaching staff taking on roles in developing the work of the school and the principal's success in promoting high standards in teaching and learning were commended.

The Board of Management's commitment to the development of the school is noted and the inspectorate said that the Board of Management is fulfilling its roles and responsibilities effectively and diligently. The school is successfully engaging in the School Self Evaluation process and the resulting improvements in pupils learning experiences and teachers' individual practice was also evident.

The recommendations of further work on developing oral Irish skills, reviewing the Code of Behaviour, annual review of roles, responsibilities and planning for cyclical policy review have been addressed by the board and the school and will continue to be areas of focus during the next school year.

Our pupils have enjoyed a wide range of extracurricular activities this year again, including Gaelic football, swimming, céile dancing, choir, cycling, athletics, lunchtime circuits, soccer, yoga, Gaelic skills. Children have competed in the Finn Valley cross-country competitions, Sports Hall athletics, indoor Gaelic competitions, Cumann na mBunscoil competitions, Inishowen soccer competitions and Finn Valley Athletics. Two pupils from the school participated in half-time games trials in Croke Park. We've had girls' soccer, our 8 aside girls team progressed to the semi-final of the Inishowen League. We've had boys' soccer competitions, both league and cup. The school had a magnificent Active Schools Week on returning from the Easter holidays. Activities included morning mile, athletics, leapfrogs, volleyball, tug-of-war, dodgeball and active homework. It culminated in a 5 kilometre walk/run. By the end of all that the school community had walked and run their way to the Acropolis in Greece, an amazing 2800 kilometres! Our sports afternoon saw our children engaged in races, relays, sack races, javelin throwing and jumping events and Zumba.

It was no surprise then, and a major highlight of the year, that the school had a double win in the Donegal Sports Star awards in November, winning the overall large schools category and the primary schools sporting teacher's award, which went to Mrs Mc Colgan.

We had another successful year of growing in our polytunnel and the fourth year of our crop rotation plan. Plants grown this year were onions, beetroot, lettuce, scallions, celery, radishes, swiss chard, potatoes, cabbages and strawberries. Each child planted a seed or bulb, transplanted them themselves and harvested them. We also had our herb garden where we could enjoy all the different smells, textures and tastes of the herbs we grew.

Twenty pupils received the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist this year. Twenty eight pupils received Confirmation. The liturgical year was celebrated throughout the school and we had Masses, to mark the beginning of the school year, the feast of St Brigid, Ash Wednesday and an end of year Mass, also the Carol Service and the May Procession. The school held class-led monthly assemblies on themes such as Mary, the mother of Jesus. Lent, Easter, St Brigid, Wellbeing and a wonderful end of year assembly facilitated by sixth class, celebrating their eight years in Scoil Naomh Bríd.

At each of these assemblies, individual pupils' achievements were celebrated and acknowledged, in for example, handwriting skills, engagement with the mathematics curriculum and most recently their engagement with the school's targets for Gaeilge. The musical talents of our pupils have been showcased at the Masses, First Communion, Christmas carol service, plays, the Saint Patrick's day session and the summer music session. For the first time, we had a choir represent the school at the Peace Proms in Belfast and at the féis in Carndonagh.

Scoil Naomh Bríd provides a robust transition programme for Sixth class. It began in December with a half day presentation organised in the school for parents and students at which all second level schools in the peninsula were represented. Rang a 6 class pupils then visited all the secondary schools during school time and meetings have been held in Scoil Naomh Bríd between our staff and staff of the various secondary schools to plan for the transition of each individual pupil to secondary schools in September.

The board of management this year has reviewed a range of organizational and curricular policies including the Enrolment Policy, our Job Sharing Policy, English Policy, our Special Education Needs policy. Our Child Safeguarding policy review has been completed. If you would like to receive a copy of this policy or any other policy please contact the school. The board also discussed and approved the School Plan. The School Self-Evaluation Regulatory Checklist was completed by the BOM. This review ensures that the school is compliant with relevant legislation and Department of Education and Skills' circulars in relation to such issues as Time in school, school day length and Standardization of the school year; Valid enrolment; the Primary Online Database; Annual returns on attendance to Túsla; Development of a School Plan; Engagement with the School Self Evaluation process; Time for literacy and numeracy; Administration of Standardised Tests and Return of Data; Primary Language Curriculum; Exemptions from Irish; Deployment of Teachers; Posts of Responsibility; Seniority of Teachers; Implementation of national agreement regarding additional time requirement; Digital Strategy and Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure; Implementation of Child Protection Procedures 2017; Implementation of Vetting Requirements; Implementation of complaints procedure as appropriate; Suspension of Students and Expulsion of Students.

The Board of Management engaged in the process of interviewing and appointing teaching and SNA staff for contracts which arose during the year.

The Board of Management acknowledges the invaluable work of the Parents' Association who organised many fundraising events throughout the year. Thanks to them and to all parents who have supported and contributed to these fundraising events. This has enabled the Parents' Association, on your behalf, to contribute €5 per child to book rental, to purchase end of year sporting medals, to contribute to the purchase of resources for the school, to contribute towards First Communion resources and to provide a lovely tea after First Communion. This fundraising is also used for on-going subsidising of buses to all school events throughout the year.

The formation of a student council, elected from the pupils, two representatives from each class, first to sixth, has been a major highlight of the school calendar this year. The addition of the student voice has been an invaluable asset to the decision-making process in the school community and the council has been involved in gathering opinion, discussion and decisions on solving problems in the yard, play areas, play equipment and how to organize Sports day and World Book Day. The members have learned a lot about democracy, how a committee operates, roles of officers and developing a constitution.

A major programme on well-being ran in the school this year. It was a 10-week programme, focusing on mental health, building resilience in students, empowering them with a variety of coping skills to help deal with the normal stresses and strains of growing up.

The development of the schools Facebook page which was set up this year has proven to be a great way of showcasing the day-to-day work of the school. The Board of Management welcomes this development.

The school community looks forward to the new school year when work will continue on our seventh Green Flag, Global Citizenship Marine Environment, working to renew our Active Schools

Flag, reviewing our Health and Safety and Code of Behaviour policies, working on the targets for the development of Irish Oral Language, continuing with actions from our School Plan.

The board continues to oversee the upgrading of the physical environment of the school. In the summer of 2018 a considerable financial commitment was made in replacing guttering, extending the office and reception area, installation of an internal phone system, painting, drainage works, resurfacing all yards. Funding has been secured for glazing and replacement doors in summer 2019. The board hopes for success with the recent application under the Summer Works Scheme 2020 for funding from the Department of Education and Skills for the refurbishment of school toilets. There has been considerable expenditure this year on science equipment and graded reading schemes, both English and Irish.

Finally, The Board of Management would like to thank all teachers, coaches and tutors who provided much support for the school's extracurricular activities, the Parents Association, all parents for their support of the school, parent volunteers, all individual members of the staff of Scoil Naomh Bríd and individual members of the Board of Management and finally all the children for their respectful interactions, their commitment to their education and their general good humour and enjoyment of life.

The Board of Management,

Scoil Naomh Bríd,

26th June 2019