



St Oliver Plunkett's NS

BOM Annual Report 2023/2024

Board of Management

Chairperson (Patron's nominee) - Sheila Macken Treasurer (Patron's nominee) - Sharon Brennan

Secretary - Mairéad Murphy Teacher Rep - Helen Andrews Parents' reps – Linda Keegan and Simon Snow

Community Reps – Ann Butterly, Kevin Tolan

Enrolment

The enrolment for 2023.2024 is 319. Annual attendance report up to June 28th is 91.7% present

Staffing: St. Oliver Plunkett's N.S. currently has an administrative principal, a deputy principal, twelve mainstream class teachers, six Learning Support/Resource Teachers one of which is a shared teacher, five full time SNAs and one part time SNA .We currently have one AP1 post, Mr Callaghan and three AP2 posts Mr Caffrey, Ms O Mahony and Ms Roisin Patterson (acting AP2). The Board of Management would like to thank Ms Leah Maguire for her service to the school and wish her the best of luck. The school also has the support of our school secretary and our caretaker. We use a contract cleaning company, Macleans, to clean the school. The staff continue to fully implement the Haddington Rd. agreement on Public Service Reform. The additional hours have been used to facilitate class teacher planning, staff meetings, whole school planning, school improvement and professional development. The staff took part in training in PE with Oide (gymnastics and indoor games), training in the New Primary Maths Curriculum and First Aid Training. The Board of Management took part in FSSU training and training in appointment procedures. Mairéad Murphy and Eoin Callaghan attended a leadership webinar in Wellbeing, Peter Caffrey and Mairéad Murphy attended a seminar in the New Primary Maths Curriculum. Mairéad Murphy continued to work with Oide as part of ongoing professional development.

Board of Management: The Board of Management had 7 meetings. A number of policy documents and school plans were revised and agreed by the board during the course of the year which included the Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment review and checklist, Anti-bullying Policy and review checklist, Safety Statement Policy and Risk Assessment, Annual Admission Notice, Behaviours of Concern Policy, School Uniform Policy, Fundraising from the Public Policy, Social Media Policy, Custody and Separation Policy, Parental Complaints Policy, Complaints Staff Policy, Correcting Children's Work Policy, Assessment Policy, Healthy Eating Policy, Statement of School Attendance, Mobile Phone Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, School Tours and Excursion Policy. Teachers engaged in professional development throughout the year. Various courses were taken by teachers and by SNAs throughout the year. The school accounts were audited and this was communicated to the FSSU. School Building: The new school building project commenced on the 4th of July, old prefabs were removed. The BOM worked with MCOH, Rodney Brady and Wille Monaghan and in September 2024 the new extension opened, this is a 7 classroom 3 Sen rooms and 2 offices building linked by a corridor to the existing building. The existing building was renovated – a complete mechanical and electrical upgrade paid for by the DES, other renovations including the reconfiguring of rooms to facilitate SEN, painting externally and an upgrade to the new courtyard to facilitate an outdoor classroom was paid via fundraising money. The Board would like to thank the staff and parents for their support with the building project. A special mention to the Parents' Committee who worked tirelessly all year on raising funds to make this possible.

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Curricular Development

Literacy: A supplementary reading scheme is available throughout the school, the New Primary Language Curriculum is fully implemented from junior infants up to 6th class. To promote Teanga Ó Bheal there is whole school approach using Frasaí as Gaeilge.

There is an established whole school approach to the teaching and learning of Oral language – this is now embedded.

We continue to focus on cursive handwriting and on presentation of work. Ms O mahony continues to support teachers with this.

Numeracy: Mr Caffrey is leading the familiarisation phase of the New Primary Maths Curriculum. Through CPD from Oide, from staff discussions Maths talk and the use of concrete materials was our focus. An audit was carried out on existing maths resources with the view to ensuring that all classes are fully equipped to teach the New Primary Maths Curriculum. In 2024.2025, teachers will start to implement the new curriculum while continuing to upskill with the new curriculum.

Standardised tests in literacy, numeracy and spelling were administered. The results were communicated to parents on the annual report cards. The literacy and numeracy returns were sent to the Department of Education.

SPHE and Well-being: The focus on SPHE continues. The Marathon kids programme was continued and classes took part in the run a mile programme. The Weaving Well Being Programme continues in classes from 3rd to 6th. Well Being Week was a positive experience. As a whole school we focussed on SPHE lessons and anti-bullying lessons. The stay safe programme and the RSE were taught. The Yellow Flag Committee/Student Council were active throughout the year. Outdoor learning took place in Glebe park for most classes this year.

E-learning: Fifth class took part in Tech We Can programme which includes ICT and Science. Senior classes have a bank of chrome books to use to promote the integration of ICT into teaching and learning. Ipads are timetabled for all classes.

Discover Science and Maths Award: The school was awarded this, Mr Callaghan led this, all staff and pupils contributed to this.

Buildings and Grounds: The Board of Management is delighted with the building progress thus far. The Staff worked tirelessly in June to empty classrooms into the prefabs to facilitate the renovation of the existing building over the summer holidays. We are looking forward to moving in to the new school in 2024.2025. The grounds continue to develop as an outside learning space. Benches have been moved to the new courtyard area. Tommy Gallagher continues to make the grounds an attractive and inviting space for the school community. During the year 2023/2024 the following improvements were affected in St. Oliver Plunkett's NS:

- New extension and full renovation was completed which included a full mechanical and electrical upgrade to the existing building.
- Purchase of educational resources including maths/literacy resources, PE equipment, ICT devices,
- Purchase of digital educational resources to support learning through ICT.
- ICT grant was received. New laptops were purchased. More devices will be purchased in 2024.2025 once needs and priorities are identified by staff.
- Fire and intruder alarms are new.
- Fire extinguishers checked and maintenance carried out.
- Minor Works Grant was spent on the renovations and on upgrading new courtyard.
- Cleaners completed a deep clean.

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School &Community: The school continues to engage with the Balrothery Community Council supporting their work, the Tidy Towns committee and the Green Schools Committee planted flowers at the front of the school. The school engages with all local clubs, Man O War Gaa who provide coaching to all classes, the school sponsored the Cricket Club on their Race night, we engaged in a Rugby Blitz and in a local inter schools soccer competition. Sports Day was held at the Man O War Gaa club. Balrothery Knights kindly gave us footballs on two occasions. They also donated money given to them from the elections.

Parents: Parents are very supportive of their children's education and actively support their child's learning through checking and guiding homework, communicating with their child's teachers and attending parent/teacher meetings. The parents committee is actively involved in supporting the work of the school. The committee held the AGM and a coffee morning for all new parents. They organised a Santa visit with chocolate, held a Halloween and Easter Sponsored walk, supplying treats for both, a Christmas Fair, Movie afternoon, purchased food for our annual Breakfast Morning during Friendship Week, purchased hoodies for 6th class pupils, organised a cake sale and some quiz nights for the adults. The chairperson of the committee along with another member spoke at the Induction meeting for new parents.

Other Noteworthy Events

- Ukulele lessons took place in classes from 2nd to 6th.
- The school took part in the Discover Science and maths award programme.
- 4th class visited the mobile library weekly
- Friendship wee
- Christmas Carol Service
- Christmas Play
- Green Flag Programme continued.
- Sponsored Halloween Dress Up walk and Easter walk were held.

- Science Exhibition was held in the hall
- Classes exhibited their designs for Engineer's week
- 6th class took part in the JEP programme
- Classes took part in the Run a Mile Programme
- Cross Country training too place in the mornings before schoo
- Yellow Flag/Student Council committee is working hard on inclusiveness and anti- bullying.
- 6th class graduation will be held on the 21st of June in the school. The Parents' Committee purchased hoodies and will supplied pizza and drinks for the pupils. The BOM supplied the food and tea and coffee for the adults
- Wild flowers and some vegetables were planted by children in 5th/6th class
- Parent/teacher meetings were held
- 6th class completed their passports to Education
- The Droichead Team (probation of new teachers) completed the programme successfully with two newly qualified teache
- The Parents' Association held an Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween dress up sponsored Walk, supplied treats and Santa at Christmas.
- 6th class tour is to Bay Sports in Athlone. 3rd,4th.2nd and 1st went to the Crystal maze in Cavan and the Infants have been to Red Mountain Farm.
- New Bike sheds were erected as part of the building project
- Sports Day was held at the Man O War GAA
- Choir sang at the Communion and Confirmation.

School Ethos

We celebrated Christmas with an outdoor Carol Service.

Catholic Schools Week took place and the theme was Living Life to the Full. The pupils did activities to reflect these themes.

All classes have a sacred space and prayers are said daily.

The first Confession, the First Holy Communion and the Confirmation all took place as normal this year.

Assemblies were held throughout the year which had prayers, songs and stories to promote well- being.

None of this could have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of the staff of St. Oliver Plunkett's NS. They are truly an invaluable resource and are very committed to their roles as educators in your child's education. Your cooperation as parents and guardians is also vitally important and we thank you for your continued support.

Board of Management of St Oliver Plunkett's NS.

