

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT TO PARENTS 2015

This is the fourth annual report from the Board of Management of Scoil Eoghain National School to the general parent body. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of information on the operation of Scoil Eoghain and to improve communication between the Board of Management and the parents and also to raise awareness of the work of the board in line with the requirements of the Education Act.

The report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school website, the school newsletter 'Scealta', text alerts, circulars to parents, the school brochure, information contained within the school diaries and information provided on our open night and all other occasions.

The Board of Management

The board is made up of eight people - two patron's nominees, two community nominees, two members of our teaching staff (of which one is the principal) and two parent nominees. Each Board of Management runs for a four year term. The board will meet a minimum of five times in the school year. The present board is in its fourth year. The board presently exists as follows:

Chairperson: Fr. Pat O'Hagan

Secretary: Mr. Liam Mc Dermott

Treasurer: Fr. Peter Devlin

Teacher nominee: Mr. Gary Foster

Community nominees: Elaine Cavanagh and Brid McGinley

Parent nominees: Brigeen Peto and Maurice Harkin

School enrolment and staffing

School enrolment currently stands at 235 at the time of writing this report.

We have at present 15 teachers, 8 classroom teachers, one learning support teacher, one shared learning support teacher, one H.S.C.L. teacher, one resource teacher and the principal. School Eoghain also has access to shared resource teachers for an allocated number of hours per week. In addition to this there are four SNAs, a full time secretary, one part time cleaner/caretaker and one part time cleaner. The school has worked tirelessly to avail of all additional support possible for our children with special needs and for the year 2014-2015 we had a full time resource post within Scoil Eoghain, this will continue for the year 2015-2016. There will also be an increase in the school allocation of S.N.A. provision from four to five.

The Board of Management wish to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and hard work displayed by our whole staff every day. A special word of thanks to those who engage in extracurricular activities on a voluntary basis.

Academic Achievements

Academic achievement continues to grow in Scoil Eoghain. The school is operating on par with/above national standards and is making huge strides in many areas. The board recognises and applauds the hard earned and impressive academic achievements of students in the Drumcondra standardised tests. Standards continue to rise and dividends resulting from collaborative interventions between classroom teachers and the learning support team are clear. The staff are highly commended. The board notes in particular the performance of students with special education needs and it commends these students for their individual achievements.

Financial Management

The financial management of the school is conducted in strict compliance with the Department of Education requirements. The school accountant is Mr John Diver who certifies the school accounts annually for the Board of Management. The accounts are in turn examined by the treasurer who presents detailed financial reports at each Board of Management meeting.

Extra- curricular activities

2014 - 2015 was a very successful year for Scoil Eoghain in terms of events and participation in extra- curricular activities. The Board of Management acknowledges the participation of students, teachers, staff, parents and members of the wider community in these activities, many of whom dedicated large amounts of their own time to provide opportunities to the children of Scoil Eoghain.

There were notable achievements in sports, performance and community organised events both our boys and girls were outstanding across the board. Children actively engaged in opportunities to try new skills such as dance, orienteering, water-sports and many more. Children went on numerous field trips to explore topics such as bio-diversity and ecology, and enjoyed guest presentations that explored diverse topics in social environmental and scientific education. Some of the many highlights of the year included the school choir trip to the Hallelujah concert in Dublin, our own Christmas Carol service in St. Pius X church, science day, active schools week, sports day, seachtain na nGaelige, tráth na gceist agus ceilí,lá glas, Santa's visit, Grandparents Day, incentive days and awards assemblies, Fan the Flame, the school breakfast club and numerous after school clubs and the respective school tours to name but a few. Children also enjoyed participating in a number of community events including library trips and events during Wainfest, the Foyle Credit Union quiz, Battle of the Books and 'Roots of Empathy'. There were many thrilling sporting clashes during the year also with both girls and boys teams exceling in GAA and soccer particularly. The children also participated in athletic meets during the year. Many children made great strides in their swimming ability throughout the year also and should be commended for their bravery.

School development planning

The school continues to actively engage in the process of school development planning and works closely with PDST in the planning process. All of the partners in the school are consulted in regard to school planning and policy. The board commends the principal and the staff for the on-going development of the school plan and participation in the SSE process. The staff continuously focus on the update and renewal of curriculum planning matters including the process of school self- evaluation. In the past year the school has had a primary focus on spelling strategies and in the coming year SSE will focus on problem solving in Mathematics.

Formulation of policies and review are ongoing processes. The following policies have been ratified or updated during the present academic year

- English
- PE
- Maths
- E-learning
- Child protection
- Anti-litter

The designated liaison person for child protection issues is Liam McDermott, should the DLP be unavailable the deputy DLP is Gary Foster

Additional information

The Board of Management would like to commend the parent body of Scoil Eoghain and thank the Parents' Association for their positive work during the year. In particular the very successful sponsored walk that took place recently. We look forward to working together in close partnership again next year for the benefit of all the children and the school. A positive school environment with a supportive parent body is inextricably linked to content pupils with successful outcomes.

Conclusion

Scoil Eoghain is a catholic primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Derry, we strive to provide the children entrusted to our care with the skills to achieve their personal best, to become integral members of the community and also contented successful individuals.

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the community who actively support and assist the school in the good work that is ongoing and also commends the involvement and work of the pupils and the parent body.

The Board of Management would like to express their appreciation to the dedicated and committed staff for the consistent and high level of teaching and learning in the past year. We would also like to praise the principal Mr. Liam Mc Dermott for the excellent leadership shown throughout the year.

Have a safe and happy Summer. See you on Monday August 31st.

