

**Holy Trinity National School,  
Glencairn Drive, Leopardstown, Dublin 18.**

Bunscoil na Tríonóide Naofa, Baile na Lobhar, BAC 18.

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School Roll Number: 20190T



June 19th 2018.

### **Introduction**

We are delighted to present this report to the school community of Holy Trinity N.S. The Annual Report provides a summary of information on the operation of Holy Trinity National School in line with the requirements of the Education Act. The report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school website [www.holytrinity.ie](http://www.holytrinity.ie), the various monthly newsletters issued by the school, circulars to parents, the school prospectus, and all information provided to parents and school community during the school year.

The report sets out to reflect on the work of the past school year 2017/18, and looks ahead to the bright future in Holy Trinity NS.

### **Board of Management**

The Board of Management was elected in November 2015 and will serve until November 2019. The board's main function is to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and to provide an appropriate education for each student at the school. The board is accountable to the patron and the Minister for Education and Skills. In November 2017, Patricia MacConville stepped down from the school board after 11 years. We thank Patricia for significant contribution she made to Holy Trinity NS in her role as community representative and also as chairperson for six of those years. Paul O Riordan replaced Patricia as community representative.

Mrs Mary White- Chairperson

James Tobin – Principal and Secretary to BoM

Fr Paul Ludden – Patron Nominee

Gráinne Heneghan – Parent Nominee - Treasurer

Pádraig O Conaill – Parent Nominee Finance Committee

Caroline Walsh- Teacher Nominee Finance Committee

Paul O Riordan- Community Nominee

Mick Lynch- Community Nominee- Health & Safety Officer.

### **School Ethos**

A caring, nurturing experience of Christianity is central to the school. It has found expression this year in

- Good Friend Week
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Collection

- Attitude of Gratitude focus
- Catholic Schools' Week Celebration in January
- Confirmation for 6th Class Children on March 9<sup>th</sup>
- First Penance & First Communion for 2nd Class pupils in March and April
- Weekly School assemblies celebrating our successes in our school community.
- Prayer Services celebrating liturgical feasts.

We are indebted to the support of our school chaplain Fr Peter Byrne. Fr Peter has been a frequent visitor to our school and has been a wonderful shepherd leading us through the various school religious ceremonies and celebrations during the year. The new Religious Education programme *Grow in Love* was introduced to third and fourth classes in the past year.

### **Enrolment**

We had 517 pupils enrolled in Holy Trinity NS in September 2017. This September we welcome in three additional Junior Infant classes.

### **Staffing**

In 2017/18 we have an administrative principal, Mr Tobin and deputy principal, Ms. Brady Dawson. The leadership team was further increased during the year with the appointment of Assistant Principal 1 Ms Ruth Brennan and three Assistant Principal 2 positions Ms Gillian Asple, Ms Eimear Reidy and Mrs Martina Fitzgerald.

We have nineteen classroom teachers. We have eight learning support teachers. School administration is supported by our school secretary, Julie Roe along with Elaine O Dwyer. We also employ two part-time caretakers John Barron and Stephen Connolly. The school will increase to twenty mainstream classes in the coming year with eight SEN teachers.

### **Administrative Policy Development**

During this school year the Board of Management approved the following school policies

- -Child Safeguarding Statement- including ancillary policies relating to supervision, school visitors, swimming, acceptable use policy and school tour policy.
- -Data Protection Policy-GDPR
- -CCTV Policy
- --Health & Safety Policy Review
- -Staff Professional Development Policy
- -Continued Professional Development Policy
- Critical Incident Policy

### **School Inspection**

In October 2017, the Department of Education and Skills carried out an inspection in Holy Trinity on Literacy. The report issued by the inspectors highlighted the very high standards of teaching and learning in Holy Trinity NS. A copy of the Department of Education report is published on the Department of Education and Skills website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) and is also attached as an appendix to this report.

## **School Self Evaluation**

Our School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Report and School Improvement Plan (SIP) are attached to this report.

The areas of focus for 2018/19 are:

- continued development in Literacy and Maths;
- development of Oral Irish communication competencies (Gaeilge ó Bhéal)

## **Aistear**

Infant classes continue to use our Aistear Room, where curriculum objectives are fulfilled through structured play in a stimulating and motivating environment.

## **SPHE**

*Weaving Wellbeing is a new programme which we introduced to all classes 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>t</sup>.* The programme includes lessons on Character Strengths, Positive Emotions, Tools of Resilience, Positive Relationships and Empowering Beliefs. Our commitment to this aspect of Social Personal Health Education reflects our belief in the importance of helping our pupils to weave positivity into their daily lives, develop self-awareness, resilience and self-efficacy and ultimately be empowered to cope with the interactions and ‘ups and downs’ of life.

In tandem with this focus, our Sonas room has afforded teachers the opportunity to provide pupils with quiet reflection, visualisation and Mindfulness practices.

The new Stay Safe (Child Protection) programme was taught to all classes this year during the second and third term.. To ensure that parents can support the work done in school, this programme will continue to be completed in the second term each year. A letter to parents at the start of the programme along with regular home-link bulletins will be sent home to keep parents updated on content covered in the programme.

## **Pupils with Additional Needs**

The Department of Education made changes to the provision of support for pupils with special educational needs. From Sept. 2017, schools were given greater autonomy to allocate teaching resources flexibly, bases on pupils’ needs, without the requirement for a diagnosis of disability. In Holy Trinity NS, this was done within the context of the SEN teaching posts given to the school and the Continuum of Support model of provision.

## **ICT**

Since January 2018, we have employed external support to help maintain and develop the opportunities for using ICT to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

The Support has three aspects.

1. Developing a Digital Strategy.
2. Managing the school hardware so the technology does what it’s meant to do.
3. Developing hands on skills for pupils using I-Pads to support their learning.

With this support, along with connections made with other schools we have been chosen as one of the 25 schools out of 153 applications to take part in the **NCCA Coding**

**Initiative** next year. This Initiative involves integrating Coding and Robotics in the classroom and using it to aid the delivery of the curriculum.

We have also been chosen to take part in the Digital Excellence Programme. This is a three year project which is undertaken as part of a cluster and focuses on how coding can be integrated into the Maths curriculum to improve children's **Problem Solving** abilities. We will work with five other schools in this programme.

Finally we are continuing to work towards our Digital Flag in 2018/2019.

### **Assessment**

Pupil progress is measured using the following assessment tools:

Teacher observation, Teacher designed tasks and tests, Work samples, portfolios & projects, Checklists. Holy Trinity is mindful of the importance of assessment *for* learning as well as assessment *of* learning.

Earlier this year, we were asked by the ERC ( Education Research Centre) to assist with the new standardized tests. Each class from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> conducted these new tests in English and Mathematics. Paper-based tests were used in 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> classes whilst 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils completed their tests online using I-pads. The results of the tests will be available in the Autumn and they will be communicated to parents once we receive them. This data will be forwarded by the ERC to the Department of Education and Skills in line with Circular 32/ 2018. Reports on sixth class pupils transferring to second level schools are forwarded to the relevant second level school at the end of the end of this academic year.

### **Child safeguarding Statement**

The BOM has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools 2017. The Board is happy that the School Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Child Safeguarding Act. In maintaining its oversight role, updated reports are presented to each Board meeting. Child Protection training has been provided to all staff during the school year 2017/18. The Designated Liaison Person, James Tobin maintains regular contact with Túsla, the Child Protection Agency. The deputy designated liaison person is Brianóg Brady Dawson.

### **Attendance**

The Board of Management is presented with attendance data at each board meeting. The Board is satisfied that the school is compliant with mandatory reporting of pupils who miss more than twenty school days. The School Attendance Strategy and Attendance Policy will be reviewed in the coming year. Average monthly pupil-attendance for the school year 2017/18 to date is 94.5%.

### **School Building Health & Safety**

Our school building is in excellent condition. The school Safety Officer completed a Health and Safety Audit in April. Identified hazards and issues were noted and

appropriate action taken. Some minor internal painting, and maintenance is planned for the Summer months.

### **School Successes on the Sporting Arena.**

During the first term we put forward gaelic football teams for both boys and girls in the Cumann na mBunscol Football League. Both teams had extensive panels of players, but were beaten in the semi-finals of their respective leagues. In December we had boys and girls teams at the Dublin Basketball Finals in the National Basketball Arena. We congratulate all the players on their achievements at the finals. We sent sixty one athletes to the Santry Sports in The Morton Stadium in May. These sporting successes are worthy of mention, and we congratulate all of those who represented the school on the school teams during the year.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

In Holy Trinity, staff and outside facilitators continue to offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities to our pupils. The Board recognises that extra-curricular activities compliment in-school learning activities and provide further opportunities for pupils to explore their talents and develop holistically

### **Public Service Agreement**

Under the terms of the Haddington Road Agreement, teachers and special needs assistants completed a schedule of additional work which included the following:

- school planning - continuous professional development - induction - policy development - staff meetings - nationally planned in-service - school arranged in-service.

A full report on the usage of these additional hours was prepared for the school Board of Management in June 2018.

### **Student Council**

Our student council was elected in September 2017. The student council has the following aims and objectives:

- to allow students play an active and positive role in matters of school life;
- to provide effective communication between Staff, Students and Parents;
- to empower students and give them a sense of responsibility;
- to foster a sense of respect and a positive attitude among students.

This year the student council helped organise and present the presentation for parents in October. They organised sports leagues for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes during the year. They set up a tuck-shop on the day of the Easter holidays to help fund graduation hoodies for our sixth class. They also provided assistance at the Juniro Infant Open Day.

### **Before & After-School Care**

The Board of Management has acknowledged the need for provision of before and after-school care to facilitate family life. A Breakfast Club and After-School Care/Homework Club operate in Holy Trinity NS, providing parents with a care option for all pupils early in the morning and infant pupils in the afternoon from 1.30-6.30 pm.

Mountainside Montessori continued to hire a room in the school building. Priority is given to pre-enrolled Holy Trinity NS pupils. Fifteen of the pre-schoolers will join junior infants in Holy Trinity NS in September.

### **School Finances**

The financial management of our school is conducted in compliance with Department of Education and Skills requirements. The Board of Management's Finance Committee prepares a monthly statement of income and expenditure ahead of each meeting. The Board is grateful to the parent association for the magnificent sum of €27,700 which ensures our budget remains in a very healthy state. The Board has consulted with the Parent Association with regard to the spending of this money. A report was issued to parents at the Parent Association Annual General Meeting in June 2017 on how fundraised money was spent during the year.

The school accounts were audited in accordance with the Education Act in October 2017.

The Board is satisfied that Holy Trinity NS remains in a financially sound position, with a clear budgeting plan in place again for the coming year.

### **Reflecting on School Activities and Achievements this year**

The Board is indebted to the teaching staff, who, with the help of support staff, created so many additional learning opportunities and enjoyable events during the school year. These include-

- Class Trips and School Tours,
- Dance Module for all classes
- Mary Poppins Presentation 3<sup>rd</sup> Class ,
- Swimming Lessons
- Simply Music Workshop
- Seachtain na Gaeilge Céilí Mór
- Rugby Blitzes 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes
- Drumming workshop,
- Puppet Theatre
- Christmas Plays,
- Sports Day,
- Potter Visit
- Gaelic Football Competitions,
- Science Week Trip to Imaginosity
- Indoor Hurling & Indoor Football in Naomh Olaf GAA Club
- Book Week Events,
- Maths Week Events.

## **Parent Association**

The Board of Management wishes to thank the committee of the Parent Association for their work during the course of the year. The Association, whose efforts stretch far beyond fundraising, organise many events and celebrations which greatly enhance the school life for our pupils and enable parents play an active and supportive role in their children's school experience. The extraordinary fundraising efforts of the Association during the year has ensured that a sum of €27,700 is available to the Board of Management to ensure further improvement of the learning opportunities we can provide in Holy Trinity NS. The Board will outline the use to which this money is put in the school at the Parent Association AGM on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Some of the Parent Association activities this year included:

- Organisation of social and curriculum event at the beginning of the school year.
- Major Fundraisers including Christmas Fair and 'Bop 'till You Drop' Disco
- Organisation of monthly parent coffee mornings
- Organisation of hospitality for school events.
- First Holy Communion Breakfast.
- School Disco October 2017.
- Presentation by Zeeko on 'Internet Safety'.
- Presentation on new 'Stay Safe Programme for parents.
- Liaising between parents and principal on relevant matters.
- Transition to Second Level Programme for Graduating Class.

The Parent Association will engage with all parents early in the new school-year to renew its priorities, highlight the critical role taken on by the Parent Association in support of teaching and learning in the school and to explore how a greater number of parents can more easily make a valuable contribution to the Association's work.

## **Teaching Experience & Student Support**

This year, our school has again been in a position to host third and second-level students. As part of our co-operation with Teacher Training Colleges, we facilitated two trainee teachers for their teaching practice modules.

## **School Communication**

The Board acknowledges school efforts to encourage and support parental involvement and communication with the school. Information meetings were organised for each class in September and formal parent teacher meetings were held in November. Parents were facilitated in meeting teachers by appointment at other times during the year.

Regular school newsletters were distributed to parents. All of these bulletins were also uploaded on the school website. The school text service has been used significantly to highlight school events and deliver important reminders to parents during the year. The text most appreciated by parents was probably that of March 4<sup>th</sup> which communicated

the re-opening of school after five days of snow. Two days later over fifty parents turned out on a Sunday afternoon when contacted to clear the snow around the school.

### **An Extraordinary Staff.**

In Holy Trinity NS, our staff work well together, and are truly dedicated to enriching the school experience of all the pupils. A sense of truly thriving school community is evident on entering the school. . We pay tribute to the fine work of the administrative staff, teaching staff and support staff and we commend them for their dedication and hard work.

### **Graduation Class 2018.**

It seems like just a few months since we welcomed in the junior infants of 2010. Eight years later we are sending them on their way to second level school. We thank all forty nine pupils and their families for enriching our school during the past eight years, and we wish them all the very best in the months and years ahead as they begin the next chapter of their learning lives. A special thanks to the parents of some of these pupils who bring to an end their close affiliation with Holy Trinity. You have helped in so many ways to build this school into the wonderful school community that it is.

### **And Finally...**

As Holy Trinity draws down the curtain on a busy, productive and fulfilling year, the Board wishes to salute all pupils, parents and staff, and to acknowledge the significant contributions all have made during 2017/2018. We look forward to a bright new school-year after a well-earned break. Holy Trinity re-opens on Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup> . The school calendar for 2018/ 19 is available to the school community on the school website- [www.hoytrinity.ie](http://www.hoytrinity.ie)

Beir Bua ‘S Beannacht

Mary White Chairperson Board of Management

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James Tobin Principal

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