

BUNSCOIL GASUR AN
CROISE NAOGA



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

Holy Cross Boys' P.S.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2015 – 2016

**The annual meeting will be held in the school
Assembly Hall on**

**Tuesday 29th November 2016
@6pm**



Holy Cross Boys' P.S.

Report of the Board of Governors to parents for the year 2015 – 2016

The annual meeting of parents will be held in the School Assembly Hall in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School.

The purpose of this meeting is to give those in attendance an opportunity to discuss the annual report and to air their views in relation to the Board of Governors, the Education Authority, CCMS and the Department of Education.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

- 1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman**
- 2. Presentation of the Annual Report**
- 3. Discussion of the Annual Report**
- 4. Any other business**

Introduction

Each school is required to give parents an annual report so they will continue to know what is happening and to be involved in the education of their child.

We, on the Board of Governors, are delighted to take this opportunity to report to you on the work of our outstanding school. We know you will read it with interest and accept the invitation to attend the Annual Parents' Meeting. We thank Mr McAreyvee for his assistance in preparing this report. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued interest.

Mr S. Magennis

Chairman of the Board of Governors'

General Aims of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

We are a Catholic school seeking to promote throughout the school an ethos which reflects Christian teaching and values.

All our activities are underpinned by our Mission Statement.

Mission Statement

At Holy Cross Boys' School we aim to create a calm and caring community where teachers teach and children learn.

Each child will be encouraged to fulfil his intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values, the recognition of the worth and value of each child and the cultivation of self-respect so that the child may accept his appropriate responsibilities and show respect for others.

At Holy Cross Boys' we aim to establish a community wherein pupils, teachers, parents and support staff enjoy a sense of belonging and have an important part to play.

Such a statement requires the development of several policies on curriculum development, special needs, the pastoral dimension, staff development, home school links and a positive discipline policy.

Duties of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school.

The Board comprises of the following members:

Trustee Representatives

Mrs Gerry O'Reilly
Fr Eugene McCarthy (Vice Chair)
Mrs Ann Maginn
Mr Sean Moyes

BELB Representatives

Mrs Geraldine Prenter
Mr Stephen Magennis (Chairman)

Teachers' Elected Representative

Mr Ciaran Curran

DENI Representative

Mr Sean Devine

Parents' Elected Representative

Ms Darragh Lee

School Principal

Mr McArevey

The term of office of each member of the Board, excluding the Principal, will expire in December 2017.

Enrolment

- 60 enrolled for Primary One in September 2015. Numbers remain capped at 60 for academic year 2015/16- 59 accepted according to Admissions Criteria.
- 60 Primary One pupils started in September 2015 and 40 pupils left in June thus giving an enrolment of 445 children for September this year.

Primary 1

- All nursery transition visits organised and facilitated by Miss Loughlin (P1 Coordinator) and Mrs Reel (Acting SENCo).
- The nursery pupils visited the school and participated in outdoor and indoor play, visited the nature garden and also had eating break in the school. These visits were arranged to help the nursery pupils with their transition to Holy Cross Boys'. Due to the success of this initiative it will be extended to include other feeder nurseries/ playgroups this year.
- Successful P1 Open Day and a new Primary 1 induction booklet produced.
- All testing completed for P1 admissions (Sept 2016)

Staffing

- Staff attendance was very good. Indeed, many have had an excellent attendance record for years. A couple of staff have been off on long term sick.
- Additional money was put into classroom assistant support.
- Budget decreases have resulted in staffing and hour reductions (effective Sept 2016)

Finance

- The school budget for 2015/2016 was £1,474,070.
- Due to the budget surplus additional money was spent on supporting the Philosophy Initiative, Science and Art materials.
- Final LMS Budgeting meeting- Surplus of £82,000 with cuts of £110,000 (left with a deficit of £28,000).

Religion

- Mrs Brooks/ Miss McLaughlin coordinated the RE programme including the various sacraments preparations for P3, P4 and P7.
- New ‘Grow In Love’ scheme was phased into P1 and P2 September 2015. Running successfully to date.
- Children attended Masses including The Mass for the Starving and the Mass for the Deceased.
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P7 Leavers’ Destinations

- The Primary 7 pupils’ destinations were as follows:

St Malachy’s College

St Patrick’s College

St. Mary’s CBGS

Edmund Rice College

Belfast Royal Academy

Building and Site

- Hazard Assessment completed by Steven Magennis (Chair BOG), Lorraine Gilbey (Caretaker), Anthony Smyth (Teacher) and Kevin Mc Arevey(Principal)
- Termly evaluation drills were conducted.
- Perimeter wall and railings completed.
- Nature Garden- Mr Diamond continuing to oversee this project along with the Working Men’s Shed.
- As part of the school’s response to severe weather or critical incidents a text service for parents remains in use and is updated by the Vice Principal and Secretary.
- With safety remaining paramount emphasis was placed on Road Safety. The school received a Crash Award for Road Safety Awareness work.
- Awaiting approval for installation of security cameras to cover rear of the school and garden.

Curriculum

Communication

- A new form of book monitoring (Collegiate Book Monitoring) was trialled this year which involved all of the teachers in a shared approach to selecting and encouraging Good Practice. This proved very successful and will continue next year.
- The Communication Profile remains on-going.
- The school ran a very successful Scholastic Book fair which raised a total of £2,850. The school was given a percentage of this amount in the form of free books - £1710 (of which an amount was used to replenish Accelerated Reader resources).
- The OTOS one to one Reading Programme continues to be used to help selected pupils (P4/P5) - workshops organised on 'Hearing and Improving your Child's Reading' which parents must attend before their child can participate in this Initiative.
- Buddy System and good practice in Diagrammatical Outcomes and Blooms continued to run successfully this year.
- Continuing with the 10-4-LAD initiative with support from the Reading Room. Unfortunately due to the lack of volunteers they were unable to provide this initiative during Term 3.
- All books scanned, labelled, colour coded and organised for the Accelerated Reader Library.
- Accelerated Reader continues throughout P4-P7 under the guidance of Mr.Connolly pupils rewarded for reaching their AR targets with prizes and monthly trips to solitude (Cliftonville FC)

Mathematics

- A new form of book monitoring (Collegiate Book Monitoring) was trialled this year which involved all of the teachers in a shared approach to selecting and encouraging Good Practice. This proved very successful and will continue next year.
- World Maths Day involved all classes P2-P7.
- Continuation of maths mentoring programme with P3,P4 & P7.

- The Using and Applying Maths scheme and Mental Maths scheme continue to be used throughout the school. On-going monitoring by the co-ordinator indicates that both are being used effectively by teachers.
- Pupil books, test results and lessons were monitored with positive results reflecting the quality of the learning experience in the school.
- Education City- The online Maths programme continues to be utilized throughout the school to promote pupil enjoyment and interest in Maths through games.
- Use of Probot and Beebot encouraged throughout the school.
- Purchase of new Maths Apps for Ipad use.

ICT

- NACCE awarded Holy Cross Boys' PS the ICT Mark Accreditation for demonstrating commitment to continual improvement throughout ICT. A congratulatory was received from Nigel Dodds, recognising this achievement.
- Ipad usage continued to enhance learning with additional activities. All pupils remain enthusiastic about the Ipads with primary 7 pupils greatly engaged in this technology.
- Teachers trained in the use of QR codes.
- Mr McGibbon was employed as the ICT technician as of September 2015.
- An Internet Safety Competition was again organised for pupils.
- All pupils in P4 and P7 met the ICT standard of Level 2 and Level 4 respectfully.
- Main Initiative is working with Young for Year Children and Under Achievers to raise level of attainment.
- School website re-written and revamped. Facebook and Twitter school accounts are updated regularly.

World Around Us

- Mr Connolly continued to monitor six weekly notes and provided support for staff in regard to record keeping and resources.
- Assessment Records continue to be used throughout the school to assess pupil progress in topic learning themes and skills.

- Equipment up to the value of £6000 was invested in to help enrich the teaching of science.
- Each Year Group received new equipment to help facilitate science lessons.
- On-going work throughout school year on gardening activities with classes planting vegetables and shrubs (Vegetables were ready and cultivated at the end of the school year).

PDMU

- Pupils worked with the Road Safety Education Officer and toured the locality examining dangerous areas for potential accidents etc... Posters erected around the school.
- Chest, Heart & Stroke- Primary 5 visit promoting healthy food and exercise.
- YEHA- Visited P5, P6 & P7.
- IFA- Visited the school to promote tolerance, anti-racism and anti-sectarianism.
- Summer Road Safety competition took place throughout P1-P7.

The Arts

Music

- Under the guidance of Mrs Martin, a number of pupils entered the *Song for 16* music competition. The pupils reached the finals of the competition which took place in Dublin.
- Mrs Martin continued to teach every class music and support the RE Co-ordinator with the music for Masses and religious events.
- Mrs Martin liaised with Edenbrooke Primary School to prepare a cross community choir for the FISCA competition in December 2015. Primary 7 pupils also attended the Carol Party at the Waterfront Hall (Dec2015)
- There are children learning violin, cello, guitar, African drums and there are sixty boys in the choir. At KS2 pupils (P5-P7) are playing the tin whistle.

Drama

- Ireland 2016 Drama Entry- Pupils from the Drama Club created and entered a dramatic piece in commemoration of the Easter Rising.
- The drama group were filmed for BBC Newline.
- The annual show '*The Princess Bride*', organised by Mrs Martin, Mrs O'Reilly and Miss Loughlin, was performed in June to great acclaim by all observers.
- Miss Loughlin continues to run the Drama/ICT club- inclusive of updating videos and advertisements for the school website.

Languages

- Languages, including French, Spanish and Irish, continue to be taught weekly throughout the school, with all classes continuing to receive at least one Irish lesson per week.

Assessment

- The CBA assessments (NILA/ NINA) were continued as part of a pilot initiative during this academic year.
- Other assessments- including PIPS, NFER, MIST and end of Key Stage levels- continued as per normal across every class within the school.
- FSM continuing to exceed 70%, putting into context the strong academic performance of pupils on an annual basis.
- Our priority is continuing to promote the highest of standards in teaching and learning, combating underachievement and underlying causes of it and ensuring all staff know their pupils very well and can diagnose and remedy pupils' difficulties.
- The follow up meetings after pupil testing of each year group are very effectively organised by Mr Curran. These Roundtable Talks have become increasingly valuable as a form of accountability and as a means of targeting resources and intervention programmes to improve learning.

SEN

- Miss McAlinden conducted Annual Reviews evaluating pupil progress as required by law. 2 urgent emergency reviews were also conducted by Mrs Reel in Term 3.
- Miss McAlinden worked closely with SEN Team, Maths and Literacy coordinators to identify and maximise the additional support we offer.
- Special Needs Register and SIMS were updated.
- Miss McAlinden worked closely with class teachers to ensure early identification and intervention. She also worked closely with CIDS Team, outreach teachers and outside agencies to maximise support provided.
- Over 100 pupils were selected to participate in the Nurturance Group programmes.
- Nurture room continues to provide much needed emotional and social skill support for the pupils twice weekly.
- Sensory room continues to be used- each class given their own timetabled sessions.
- Mrs Reel returned to the role of Acting SENCo as of May 2016.
- A close link was formed with the North Belfast Hub Coordinator and those families in need were then referred to this excellent service.

PE/ Sport

- KS1 & KS2 Sports Days were both extremely successful.
- Swimming was organised for P5-P7 classes throughout the year, and many coaches were drafted in to take specialist lessons in Gaelic Games during the year.
- As part of the Extended School Programme the boys had access to other sporting opportunities including golf, multi-sports and table tennis.
- Due to the success of Baseball last year it was continued into 2015/16.
- Mr. Hawkins coordinated coaching for hurling and Gaelic this year.

- Organising of student coaches from St. Mary's- once a week, for a period of 4 weeks.

Gaelic

- Gaelic training continues to run every Wednesday for P6 & P7.
- Primary 5 participated in a Hurling Blitz event in May 2016
- P4 pupils receiving Ulster Council coaching every Thursday and training support from Ardoyne Kickhams.

Soccer

- Mr Kane coaching P2 & P3 pupils and using the newly constructed 3G pitch in the Millennium Park on the Marrowbone.
- Training workshop in conjunction with Crumlin Star FC coach Fernando Murphy for a period of 4 weeks.
- The soccer team won a number of Belfast-wide competitions
 - Belfast U10 Cup (Semi Finalists against Campbell College)
 - Belfast U11 Cup (Cup Winners)
 - Cyril Murray 7 aside (Cup Winners- shared with St. Bride's PS after draw at finals)

Athletics

- Weekly training continues under the guidance of Mrs McShane.
- Participated in races within Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League.
- Eamonn Corbett (Primary 7 pupil) qualified and participated in the Flahavan's NI Cross Country Finals. He came 25 out of 225 boys and ranked 4th County Antrim finisher.

Extended Schools

- All Extended Schools activities continue to run successfully.
- 16 activities for P1-P7 pupils / parent classes ran throughout the school year.

- Breakfast Club remaining popular with an increase in numbers attending this academic year 2015-16.
- Peer mentoring programme initiated through Extended Schools- 5 pupils selected.
- On-going communication with outside agencies and the community, including Ardoyne Youth Club and the Ardoyne Community Centre.

Pastoral

- A number of Monitoring Groups were set up in Feb 2016 in addition to the pre-existing Attendance Monitor. New groups are focusing on Punctuality, Behaviour and Homework and have allowed for a precision focus to be kept on pupils who have been highlighted as causing a concern.
- Throughout the academic year children were removed and added in the Child Protection Register. We also have a LAC (looked after child).
- All Primary 1 medicals completed by school nurse in Term 3.
- Flu Nasal vaccinations given- P2-P7.
- ‘Thumbs up for Road Safety’ - Entire school community involved in road safety walk.
- The CIDS Team supported various pupils and some pupils were helped by Barnardos.
- All classroom assistants received Child Protection training which was facilitated by Mr Donnelly.
- Mrs Fegan facilitated Conflict Resolution Groups- providing support for those pupils who were experiencing difficulty.
- Mrs Lynch continued to organise the Pupil Council this year. They met weekly and the boys took the minutes. They presented prizes to pupils with great attendance.
- The Pupil Council were involved in drafting their own version of *Proclamation for a New Generation* as a commemorative piece for *Proclamation Day* at Holy Cross Boys’ PS.
- The Peer Mentoring programme ran successfully as part of the Extended Schools Programme in conjunction with Ardoyne Youth Club.

- The school worked with Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership to provide workshops for older boys on the topics of smoking, alcohol and drugs.
- Donna Hawkins (Ardoyne Health Service) provided various programmes throughout the year including P1 Massage/Appropriate Touch and P7 Aromatherapy sessions.
- Safety was as usual to the fore with Firework Safety, Fire Safety and Healthy Eating work done with children.
- A PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) display board is still in place.
- In Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) Mr Smyth coordinated a range of visitors to the school on the themes of Water Safety, Road Safety and Heart Start.
- Careers Week was successfully held once again, bringing in a diverse range of individuals to speak about their careers.
- The Vice Principal held termly Special Liaison Group (SLG) meetings which examined ways of supporting vulnerable children.
- Therapy Through Art was provided for selected pupils and their parents, delivered by Mrs Cairns.
- Nurturance groups were initiated with timetabled sessions provided for selected pupils to improve their self-esteem, social skills, anger management, bereavement, emotional, intelligence etc.
- The school participated in Anti-Bullying Week and had a BLUE Day (Being Lovely and Understanding with Everyone).
- A Buddy Reading System was initiated whereby P7 pupils supported P2 pupils.
- Playground and Dinner Hall Helpers rota continues to operate on a basis basis.
- The Primary 7 boys had a Transition Week to prepare them for their move to post primary schooling. This simulated a week in secondary school with a special timetable, lesson from teachers from local post primary schools, their own homework diary etc.
- Meetings between the Acting SENCo and Post Primary SENCos were organised to facilitate the exchange of information.
- Case Conferences were attended by the Designated or Deputy Designated teacher for Child Protection.

- Local feeder nursery school and playgroups were visited to support our new P1 pupils. Numerous transition visits by the nursery pupils were arranged and proved very successful.
- The pupil attendance for the year 2015/2016 was 96%, above the N.I average of 94.5%.
- The School Nurse Denise Campbell continued to provide excellent support for both the pupils and their families. She completed numerous referrals for ASD, ADD and ADHD assessment, CAMHs, Occupational Therapy etc. and helped to draw up Medical Care Plans when necessary.

Initiatives

- Global Citizenship- Main focus has been to incorporate a global dimension to school practice.
- Linked with Mr Wallace's work on RRSA. A project has been devised that Mr Wallace will facilitate whilst in Africa (Summer 2016).
- The school welcomed its first Erasmus student from Austria (February- March 2016).
- Facetime links have been made with a linked Spanish Primary School.
- Chess Mentoring Programme- continues every Friday @ 8.30am to teach beginners or develop the play of those pupils already familiar. Numbers have strengthened making it possible to hold an end of year chess tournament.
- RRSA steering group was established (staff and parents).
- Whole School Survey conducted and groups of P4-P7 pupils were chosen to represent each class.
- RRSA was incorporated in the *Proclamation of a New Generation* during the preparation for the commemoration of the Easter Rising 2016.
- RRSA wall display constructed and will be changed monthly with a new *Right of the Month*.
- Eco- Schools - HCB received the Silver Award for our Eco-Schools programme (2015/16).

Philosophy

- Every teacher from P1-P7 has embraced Philosophy with open hands and have been observed by the Board of Governors and Principal taking Philosophical enquires.
- Mr Mc Arevey and Terry Laverty devised a whole school Philosophy Scheme and a Philosophy Policy.
- Parent Philosophy Group introduced. Weekly sessions are led by Mr McArevey and Gianfranco Campalani (retired philosophy lecturer from Stranmillis College).

Parents and Community

- The school worked closely with a range of community partners, including Shankill – Ardoyne Health partnership, Ardoyne Youth Club, Men’s Shed, Ardoyne Kickhams GAA, Ardoyne Community Centre, The Education Task Group etc.
- There was a significant parental contribution to Year Three of the ARC project in which the school partners Glenwood Primary School.
- Parent / Art room is now fully equipped and operational.
- School gym still available to parents for daily use.
- Successful turnout for public performances of *The Princess Bride* (End of year school show).
- Resounding support shown from parents and surrounding community for both the Christmas Fair 2015 and the Summer Fun Day 2016, held in aid of HCB Zambia Appeal 2015/16.
- Various parental programmes were arranged by Mr Morrin and Mr Curran as part of Extended Schools inclusive of Ipad Class, GCSE Maths Class, Reading Room and Literacy & Numeracy Workshops.
- A wide range of placements for classroom assistants and trainee teachers were catered for.
- 10-4-LAD programme has again been hugely successful in providing a new and popular parent class.
- Newsletter maintained and promoted throughout the year.

