



Annual Report of the Board of Management to the Parents of students attending Saint Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen for the school year 2020-2021.

Brief Overview of the school year 2020-2021:

Saint Nathy's College is a voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of the Bishop of Achonry, Bishop Paul Dempsey.

The school continues to grow where we have now a student population of over 650. A notable feature of this is the number of students attending the school that are outside our catchment area. The Leaving results achieved in State examinations continue to be excellent. The school is staffed by a committed and dedicated staff of teachers, SNA's and ancillary staff supported by the school trustee, the Board of Management, Students' Council and the local community.

A number of significant improvements have taken place within the school:

- The A-Block roof is under-going emergency works at present where the lead valleys are being replaced and the chimneys are having their lead flashings replaced and being repointed.
- The B-Block and Oratory roofs has been repaired and made watertight.
- A grant to upgrade the existing Construction and Engineering room has been granted by the Department.
- A number of rooms in A and B- Blocks have been totally upgraded- new seating, floor coverings, painted and new blinds. The doors in B-Block have all been painted giving the area an important uplift.
- All classrooms now have wifi connected which facilitates greater student learning.
- All teaching staff have become very adept at holding online classes and videos.
- New Data Projectors are gradually replacing older models which have reached their life expectancy.
- There is now a bank of laptop tablets located in a number of rooms in the different building blocks that students and teachers can draw on for use in class or project work.
- The Covid small building grants has meant that extra classrooms could be opened up, covered outdoor areas for students provided, upgraded CCTV to monitor social distance and that facilities provided for socially distancing for staff and students alike could be introduced.

On a negative note there is no major increase in the Capitation Grants the main source of school income and voluntary schools still lag behind the ETB sector in the capitation that they receive. Voluntary contributions by parents is down and this has a knock-on effect on the range of extra-curricular activities that we can offer. The school book grant scheme for needy students continues as usual.

School Enrolments and Staffing:

Over 123 first year students enrolled in the school this year bringing the total school student population to 651. There are 50 teachers on the staff permanent (CIDs) and part-time, two special

needs assistants, three secretaries, two caretakers, two part-time cleaners and a part-time payroll secretary employed by the Board of Management

Trusteeship, Management and Representation:

The trustee of Saint Nathy's College Bishop Paul Dempsey, the Bishop of Achonry, maintains close connections with the school. The Board of Management consists of parents, teachers, bishops and ETB representatives, and in total number there are twelve members and is chaired by Mr William Thornton. The board meet regularly and is constituted in line with the Articles of Management for Secondary Schools. The board is actively seeking to re-establish the parent's council that has been dormant for a number of years. This parent's council once established will comprise of parents of current students in the school. The Student's council is elected annually and comprises of student representatives from each year in the school. All of these bodies played a very supportive role throughout the year in the school.

Financial Management and Accounting:

Morrison & Co Dublin are the school's accountants and audit the school's accounts annually for the Board of Management. These accounts are in turn examined by the board's finance sub-committee before being presented to the trustee of the school Bishop Paul Dempsey and to the Financial Services Unit of the Joint Managerial Body for Secondary Schools which reviews accounts on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills. A book keeper has been employed to look after the school accounts. School finances continue to be tight and prudent financial management is required.

Inspections:

A Department Inspector Rory McConway visited the college on 3rd December 2020 and carried out a review of the school's responses to covid-19 and the college's Child Protection Statement. The Inspector was very happy with the way that management and staff were dealing with the ongoing pandemic.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Extra-curricular activities is very important in Saint Nathy's College and the Board of Management acknowledges the participation of students, teachers and parents in these activities. However during the Covid pandemic no extra-curricular activities were able to take place. The main extra-curricular activities that take place in a normal year are fundraising for charitable activities, Quizzes, Book Clubs, Craft Clubs, Horticulture Club, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Badminton, Athletics, BT Young Scientist and Sci-Fest competitions. Prism Maths competitions and Aberdeen Angus competitions for students of Agricultural Science.

Academic Achievements:

The Board of Management while acknowledging the importance of the holistic approach to education applauds and recognises the outstanding academic achievements of students in their Leaving Examinations- two students received over 625 points the maximum a student can obtain. (Junior Cert was an in house examination rather being a state examination). The teaching and support staff are to be highly credited for this. The board would also like to mention the performance of students with special education needs and commends highly these students and their teachers. The support of the Department of Education and Science and the State Examination Commission in achieving these results is appreciated and acknowledged.

School Development Planning:

The school continues to engage actively in the process of School Development Planning whereby all of the stakeholders are consulted in regard to school planning and policy.

- A review of the Code of Behaviour policy took place and the Child Safeguarding Statement and Internet Policy are to be reviewed later in the new school term.
- A committee is to be set up to look at formulating a school Ethos Policy within the school. A number of teachers are currently undergoing a Masters in Leadership in Catholic Schools.
- A committee has been set up to re-establish the Parent's Committee within the college which will take place in the new academic school year.
- School Self Evaluation is to be revisited as per recommendations from the MLL Department Report.

Matters of Concern for the Board of Management:

The Board of Management recognise that Covid has proved to be very challenging for management, teachers, parents and students of the school. It is acutely aware of the problems caused by the pandemic on its student body both academically and mentally. It notes the reassuring and sympathetic role played by the Guidance Department and class teachers in striving to alleviate these worries.

The unfair imbalance in the amount of money given by way of capitation to the ETB sector by the Department compared to the Secondary was quite worrying and discriminatory.

Conclusion:

The Board of Management wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to the hard working and dedicated staff of Saint Nathy's College led by the Principal, Mr Declan Dunne. It commends the involvement and work of the Student's Council and members of the local community who actively support the school in many ways. The students of the school are deserving of special praise for their excellent behaviour, co-operation and their academic and extra-curricular achievements. The Board is happy with the religious ethos and characteristic spirit of the school which strives to fulfil its Mission Statement

'Saint Nathy's College was established to act as a Centre of Learning. We strive to achieve this within a fostered Christian environment which equally provides for the faith and personal development of each student. All of our school endeavours and activities are directed towards these objectives'

The Board of Management would like acknowledge the commitment and support of the trustee the Bishop of Achonry, Bishop Paul Dempsey to the school. The Board believe that the school's motto '*Robur Nathaei*' the strength of Nathy exemplifies the holistic approach to education that Saint Nathy's College offer.

Signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Board of Management:

Willie Thornton

Date: 21st September 2021

Chairman of The Board of Management