

St. Mochtas National School



Board of Management

Agreed Report – December 2016

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Agreed Report

The Board of Management hope that this finds all members of our school community well as we prepare for the festive season.

As you are aware, the Board of Management communicates with the school community through an Agreed Report each term.

1. Welcome

We welcome all of our families to school for this academic year. We extend a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants and children who join us for the first time and have settled in well to our school. We also welcome new parents who are joining the school community for the first time. We currently have 902 children in our school and have 50 teachers and 10 SNAs.

2. Parents' Association

We are very lucky in St Mochta's to have such a wonderful, active and committed Parents Association. Every parent in our school is a member of the Parents Association and the PA Committee represents you all.

Our PA co-ordinate a variety of wonderful events in our school throughout the year and have an important part to play in ensuring we provide the best and safest learning environment for all of our children.

They organise catering at sacraments and graduation, Santa's Visit, Text Book Ordering Service, Book Rental and the Christmas Fair.

Our Christmas Fair was another great success this year. The BOM would like to extend huge thanks to our PA for all of their hard work, energy and enthusiasm in making this event such an amazing success. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of our school community.

3. School Building Update

One of the highlights of the first term was the formal approval of our new school build. It was heart-warming to see the whole school community come together and collectively work to ensure this approval was finally granted. Thanks to everyone for all of your support of our campaign. Special thanks to our BAG group for all of their great work. This group will be maintaining regular contact with the school community throughout the coming weeks and throughout the building programme. The BAG group can be contacted at stmochtasschool.bag@gmail.com. Together we are making it happen!

Tenders were received on 7th December. Our contractor will be appointed in the New Year and we can now look forward to the commencement of the new school building at the beginning of April 2017. Further details will be communicated to you as this project progresses. 2017 will be a very exciting year for our new school building programme.

4. **Traffic/Parking**

This continues to be a serious issue for our school and as the school population has grown the issue has become even more serious for us and OUR CHILDREN. Mindful and respectful driving and parking practices lead to the safe arrival of our children to the school and their safety when leaving the school each day. To ensure that the children are safe, everyone must make an effort to help. There are still too many unsafe practices and dangerous incidents in and around the school each day.

PLEASE, PLEASE BE SAFE AND RESPECTFUL BEFORE A CHILD GETS HURT.

With the school build project starting in Spring, cars must be parked in a safe, legal and considerate manner. Unfortunately, a number of parents continue to park and block access to/from driveways, and park dangerously close to junctions and entrances to estates. This is both highly inconsiderate towards the residents of these estates and is, in fact, illegal. The Board of Management will have no hesitation in supporting local residents who choose to report drivers who park illegally or trespass on their property. The Board will also support those parents who choose to report instances of dangerous parking that may put the lives of their children at risk. The Clonsilla Inn has given us the use of their rear car park during collection times, so please avail of it. Unfortunately, this facility is no longer available at drop off time in the morning. Please note that parents are not permitted to park in the Staff Car Parks when dropping or collecting children. We thank you for your continued understanding and support.

5. **Finances**

The school budget was set in September with yet further cost saving measures included. We are constantly reviewing all expenditure with a view to getting the best value for money while trying to maintain a safe and caring environment for our children to learn and our staff to provide the best education possible.

A letter was sent home to all families in November seeking a voluntary contribution from each family. Thank you to those who have already made a contribution. Our shortfall from the grant we receive from the Department of Education for the academic year 2016/2017 is €6,743, which is 13.9% lower than last year. As always, we are extremely grateful for whatever contribution you can make. Thank you for your support.

6. **Nut Allergy**

Just to remind you, there are several children in our school who have severe allergy to peanuts/nuts. It is important that there is strict avoidance to this food in order to prevent an allergic reaction. We are asking for your help to provide these students with a safe school environment.

Any exposure to peanuts/nuts may cause a severe allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child.

7. **Carol Service**

We would like to thank the School Choir for their amazing presentation of “*When Santa Comes to Town*” which took place on December 8th at St. Mochta’s Church. It was truly wonderful and a fantastic start to the Christmas festivities. Well done to all our pupils – past and present – who performed so well and treated us to a fabulous evening of song. Many thanks to everyone involved

including the students in the choir, parents and teachers, but most especially Mr. Cryan for organising the concert. As ever, thanks to the PA for organising refreshments during the interval.

8. Season's Greetings

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. We hope Santa comes on time! Wishing you all every health, peace and happiness for 2017.

With warmest regards,
The Board of Management.

Tony Rock, Chairperson

Maria Farrell, Principal

Fr. Kieran Dunne, Patron Nominee

Ronan Boner, Teacher

Liam O'Connor, Parent Nominee

Valerie Haslam, Parent Nominee

Samantha Reilly, Wider Community Nominee

Gerry Phelan, Wider Community Nominee