

St. Mochtas National School



Board of Management

Agreed Report – June 2018

Board of Management

Agreed Report

The Board of Management hope that this finds all members of our school community well. This is the final Agreed Report for the Academic Year 2017/2018 to update you on matters relating to St. Mochta's National School.

1. What another year.....Thank You!

The Board of Management would like to thank the staff of St. Mochta's for all of their hard work and commitment throughout the year. We have celebrated many incredible achievements and successes during the year, thanks to the great efforts and dedication of our staff.

These have included a great Maths Week, Science Week, Seachtain Na Gaeilge, great Sports Days, fantastic results in our Drumcondra testing where the children's results have performed well above the national average, great success on the sports field and the santry sports track and, of course, the Fís Film awards and our incredible school production of Peter Pan. We would like to thank everyone in our school community for their support in making this school year a great one in the history of St Mochta's none more so than our parents for all of your support and for working with us as partners in your child's education. We have a great school in St. Mochta's thanks to our parents, staff and, above all, our wonderful children.

The Board of Management would also like to thank the PA for all of their work and support throughout the year. Fiona O'Connor has done a wonderful job in leading the PA. We are very grateful to all of the PA members and volunteers who are always so generous with their time. St. Mochta's National School would not be the wonderful school it is today without the great work of our PA.

2. School Building

You will not doubt have noticed the amazing progress of our new school build and we are certainly looking forward to moving into the first phase of our new school build for the Academic Year 2018/2019. Phase 2 will start from 2nd July with the demolition of our existing school building. From the closure of the school on the 29th June 2018, there will be no access to parents, guardians or visitors to the school until August 2018. The Administration Staff will be busy working away in the background. Should you need to contact the school, you can do so by email at st_mochtas@eircom.net or call 01-8210499. However, please be patient as it may take some time to have all services up and running again and you may not receive an immediate response.

One of the main concerns going forward during Phase 2 will be the drop-off/collection of children. As you already have been made aware, there will be no facility to park at all on the Porterstown Road. While this will be temporary, there is no doubt that it will be a major

inconvenience to parents/guardians who need to use a vehicle to bring their child to school. We are appealing to you to seek alternative options. Maybe park a little further away and walk to the school. Unfortunately, due to space restrictions in the area, the Board of Management of the school is unable to provide alternative drop-off zones.

If your children attend a pre-school/after-school service, we do ask you to communicate these restrictions in advance of the summer break so that the business can plan for the return to school.

The Board of Management's priority will be focussing on the health and safety of all our boys, girls and staff inside the perimeter of the school boundary. There is still a lot of planning to be done to accommodate the children with play space, etc., due to the continued limited space within the boundary walls.

We would like to acknowledge the work of our builders, Glasgiven Contractors, who will help us with the move from our existing building to the new building.

Once we have access to the new building we can start planning our entry and exit areas. This will be communicated to you directly by email before the start of school in late August.

Fundraising for the new school

As you may already know, the design and budget for the new play area allows for a very limited playground. The Board considers this space insufficient for the number of students in our school. There is space on the school grounds to provide additional play areas, however, this needs to be funded by the school. It has been estimated to cost approximately €100,000 to pay for surfacing all of the available space. We are appealing to parents/guardians to get involved and help generate ideas and organise events to help raise funds. A committee has already been established and some great ideas are being explored. However, it takes a lot of people to make events happen. This will benefit all of the children currently in the school and children who have yet to come to St Mochta's National School. Please, please get involved, contact stmochtasfundraising@gmail.com for further details.

Follow updates on the school build using **Facebook**: St Mochtas School Build Action Group and/or **Twitter**: @StMochtasNS_BAG

3. Finances

Voluntary Contribution

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 and February seeking a voluntary contribution from each family. Thank you so much to those who made a contribution this year. Your support is vital to the school.

4. **Thank you and Best Wishes**

Two valued members of our staff are retiring this summer. The Board of Management would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to our SNA, Ms. Elizabeth Davis and our Caretaker Mr. Gerry Conroy for their service to our school. We are most grateful for their dedication, hard work and commitment to our school. They will be greatly missed. We wish them every joy, health and happiness in their retirement.

5. **Traffic**

Mindful and respectful driving 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.

We ask all members of our school community to respect and have consideration for our neighbours when parking their vehicle. Please do not obstruct local residents' driveways. 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 not available at drop off time in the morning. Please note that parents are not permitted to park in the Staff Car Park when dropping or collecting children. We thank you for your continued understanding and support.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Traffic Wardens for the work that they do and encourage you to respect them as they endeavour to keep our children safe on the roads around the school.

6. **Garda Vetted Parents**

The Board of Management encourages as many parents/guardians as possible to become garda vetted through the school. In line with new child protection procedures, it is vital to the successful running of activities, particularly away from the school, to have as many parents/guardians vetted as possible. The children enjoy their school tours, matches and other various expeditions away from the classroom. With the shortage of teachers, it is more important than ever to have assistance from garda vetted parents/guardians. Invitations to become vetted through the school are available from the school reception.

7. Some Reminders for the next academic year

Kindly note:

- Smoking is strictly prohibited on the school premises and grounds.
 - Dogs are not permitted on the school premises and in any yards.
 - All children in the care of their parents while on the school property are the sole responsibility of their parents.
 - Parents are **not** permitted to park in the Staff Car Parks when dropping or collecting children under any circumstances.
 - Parents will not be permitted to enter the yard each morning.
 - School gates open at 8.30am. The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for children who arrive at the school before this time.
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We hope every member of St. Mochta's National School community enjoys a happy, restful and, of course, sunny summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in August.

With warmest regards,

The Board of Management

Mr. Tony Rock, Chairperson – Patron's Nominee

Fr. Kieran Dunne – Patron's Nominee

Ms. Maria Farrell, Principal

Mr. Ronan Boner – Teacher Nominee

Ms. Valerie Haslam – Parent's Nominee

Mr. Liam O'Connor – Parent's Nominee

Ms. Samantha Reilly – Community Nominee

Mr. Gerry Phelan – Community Nominee