



# SCOIL FIONNTÁIN NAOFA

## Agreed Report of the Board of Management 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

A meeting of the Board of Management of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe took place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### *‘Living Our Ethos’*

The new Deputy Principal Mr. Johnny Watson will take over the role of Religious Education Co-ordinator following the retirement of Deputy Principal Mrs. Miriam Brickley.

### **Financial Position**

The school’s current financial position was outlined by Treasurer of the Board of Management Mrs. Agnes Kerwin.

### **Principal’s Report**

The Principal’s report to the Board of Management was given by Mr. Barry Whelan.

Headings on the Principal’s Report included:

#### Child Safeguarding:

- The Child Protection Oversight Report was delivered by Barry Whelan;
- Barry Whelan informed the Board of Management that the Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E) Programme will be taught in term 2 of the school year 2022-2023, in line with the provisions as set out in the school’s S.P.H.E Policy. In advance of this happening, the R.S.E Policy will be reviewed in term 1 of the school year 2022-2023.
- The Annual Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment was conducted at this meeting of the Board of Management. Notification of the review can be accessed here <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/child-safeguarding-annual-review.html>
- Barry Whelan was re-ratified as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Safeguarding and Jonathan Watson was ratified as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDPL) for Child Safeguarding;

- The revised/reviewed Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was ratified by the Board of Management. It can be accessed here <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/child-safeguarding-statement--risk-assessment.html>

### Anti-Bullying:

- The school's Anti-Bullying procedures and protocols were discussed. The school will hold its annual Anti-Bullying Week in October. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management in November.

### Sonas Class for Pupils with ASD

- Darwin Construction Ltd. from Co. Tipperary were granted the tender to complete the works on the Sonas Classroom (former Junior Classroom). After unforeseen delays that were outside of the control of the Board of Management, it is hoped that these works will commence in early September.

### School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

- An application has been made to the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) for support in restarting the SSE process at whole school level.

### Standardised Test Results 2021-2022

- The aggregated standardised test results in English Reading, Spelling and Maths were presented to the Board of Management and were compared with national norms. The Board was very pleased with the overall results and commended the teaching staff for same.

### Enrolment

- The enrolment for the school year 2022-2023 is 70 pupils. This is an increase of one from last year. There are nine incoming Junior Infant pupils, three new pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class & three new pupils in our Sonas Class.

### Active Schools

- Mr. Watson is assuming responsibility for the Active Schools initiative and will restart the great work done by Mrs. Brickley last year in this domain. Mrs. Brickley conducted a very successful Active Schools Week

in June and very high levels of activity were evident across the school on a daily basis.

### Green Schools

- Mrs. Cahill is in the process of developing the school's bee/pollinator garden. Mrs. Cahill and her class, 'upcycled'/recycled the old plastic sandpits from the front of the school in June, to create very nice herb planters for the bee garden.

### Blue Star Programme

- Pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class have been registered to participate in the 'Blue Star' programme on the E.U again this year.

### The Pushkin Trust

- Pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be participating in 'The Pushkin Trust' this year. At the core of the Pushkin Trust's work is the Schools' Programme which is a cross-curricular, cross-community and cross-border project involving primary, secondary, Irish medium and special needs schools. The initiative retains creative writing as the central core of activity and is supplemented by other creative art forms, using the environment as an important source of inspiration. Further details about 'The Pushkin Trust' can be found here [www.pushkintrust.com](http://www.pushkintrust.com)

### Shanahoe Schools Collection

- The school's folklore/local History collection '*Tracing Our Past: Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Shanahoe*' is currently nearing completion. Final edits are being undertaken currently. Sincere thanks must go to Board of Management member and parent Sonia McDonnell for the huge amount of work that she has undertaken on the publication since its inception last December. This work has included researching printing and publication options, liaising with businesses to seek sponsorship, formatting all of the adverts of which there were many, taking photographs for the book and designing the front cover.  
Parent Maresa Melvin undertook a huge amount of work in recent months in terms of typesetting, formatting, proofreading and editing the publication. This was a mammoth undertaking that required a very specific skillset. Many thanks to Maresa for all of her excellent work in this regard.

Parent Tony Delaney must be thanked for the very sharp ‘editorial eye’ that he has cast over the publication on different occasions in recent months.

### Maintenance Works completed over the Summer months

- Painting of the Senior Classroom;
- Painting of the office and staffroom;
- Powerwashing and painting of all of the boundary walls by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Painting of the gates by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Powerwashing of areas of the school yard by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Playground markings i.e basketball court, Snakes and Ladders and four large hopscotches. This work was completed by Topline Markings in Roscommon and the works were fully funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;
- Two large planters for outside the front gate, the same as those in the church grounds. These were provided by Irish Recycled Products and fully funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;
- Replacement of the nets on the goalposts in the field. The new nets were also funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;
- Installation of security fencing with a lockable gate around our soft playground area. This has created a safe space for the pupils in the Sonas Class. We will hold a ‘*Tractor, Truck and Vintage Run*’ in September to pay for the fencing.

Many thanks to Parent Association Chairperson Norma Rohan and Board of Management member Sonia McDonnell for securing the funding for the school under the Community Activities Fund.

### **Curricular Plans/Policies**

- The **Whole School Plan for English** was ratified by the Board of Management. The plan was formulated by Mrs. Cahill (Assistant Principal 2) following sustained support being provided by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) over the course of the school year 2021-2022. The Whole School Plan for English can be accessed here

<https://shanahoens.weebly.com/english-planpolicy.html>

- The **Whole School Plan for Geography** was ratified by the Board of Management. The plan places significant emphasis on local Geographical features and elements. In addition to this, it includes a three year cycle to reflect our multi-grade context and to ensure continuity and progression in teaching & learning in Geography as a subject area. The Whole School Plan for Geography can be accessed here <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/geography-planpolicies.html>
- The **Whole School Plan for Music** was ratified by the Board of Management. It includes a dedicated section on our school band which is an integral part of life in Scoil Fionntáin Naofa. The Whole School Plan for Music can be accessed here <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/music-planpolicy.html>

### **Organisational and Administrative Policies**

The following Organisational and Administrative Policies were (re)ratified by the Board of Management of the school following review:

1. The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment (as aforementioned);
2. The Safety, Health and Welfare Statement and Risk Assessment. These documents can be accessed here <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/safety-health--welfare-statement--risk-assessment.html>

The school's Mission and Vision Statements were ratified. Consultation was facilitated and feedback was sought from different stakeholder groups including the Board of Management, Staff, Parents (Parents' Association) and Pupils (Student Council), as part of the process of drafting these statements. The Mission and Vision Statements can be viewed on the homepage of the school website <https://shanahoens.weebly.com/>

### **Date of the Next Meeting of the Board of Management**

The date of the next meeting of the Board of Management of the school is to be decided/confirmed in due course.

ENDS