



Executive Report Board of Directors Meeting September 2018

Faith and Mission School Resource Pack.

The Faith and Mission Resource Pack has been very positively received. Feedback was received from School Principals, R.E. Teachers, D.E. Lead Teachers, teachers, Spiritan province members team, school chaplains etc... A copy of the resource pack is available for all board members.

Online Resources

A new area has been made available to teachers to support RE and ethos initiatives in the schools. It requires a simple login and registration. This will be coordinated in consultation with the Teachers Ethos working group. It has also meant that we have not printed hard copies of resources for this year apart from calendars.

Templeogue

The new principal, Ms. Niamh Quinn took up her position in August and has been warmly welcomed by all of the staff. She is committed to Catholic education and the Spiritan values expressed in our education guide. She is being supported by her management team, the BoM and this office. Under her leadership, Templeogue College will continue to grow as a school inspired by the Spiritan charism.

College.

School Retreat Programmes.

The Retreat programme for 1st years (650 students) has now commenced. All schools were invited to participate. Rockwell will receive their retreat programme in February. The team is coordinated by this office and comprises of a number of P/T people including Paddy Moran CSSp, Niall Green CSSp, Emma Maloney, Louise O'Connor, Paul Barnes, Angie Escara and Levis, (Spiritan Seminarian). The areas of interest that are covered include, building community, meditation and prayer, environment, living the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understanding Spiritan values. The feedback from the school chaplains on this programme was very positive. They were happy with the content and the overarching themes of faith and mission that root the programme.

Over the Summer months, through this office, the retreat team received preparation and training on content, facilitation and methodology for this retreat programme. This has helped in the development of the team and the provision of the retreat programme. As part of our review from last year, we piloted Ardbraccan (Spiritan spirituality centre) as a venue for the programme. This was very successful with great feedback from the school on the appropriateness of the venue. This year Willow, St. Michael's and St Mary's have had their programme in Ardbraccan.

Confirmation retreats for Willow Park Junior School (120 students) will take place at the end of the October.

Rockwell

There continues to be ongoing concerns in Rockwell and a number of discussions have taken place with the Chair to try to identify the best way forward for the school and its students.

College.

School Chaplaincy.

This office has participated in recruitment of two new lay chaplains within our network during the summer months. We now have Lay Chaplains in all schools apart from Templeogue College. Each chaplain is qualified to a MA level or beyond.

Board of Management Training.

The EO attended a meeting of the AMCSS to review last year's BoM training and prepare for the coming year. Training for members of Boards of Management, especially members of new boards will take place on a number of Saturdays during the month of November at a variety of venues across the country. There will be a period during the day to allow us to meet with our board members to address those issues and values which are specific to Spiritan schools. Tom and Ronan will present at these sessions.

School Speaking engagements.

During September, the SIFM office will facilitate the presentations for parents on sacramental preparation for Confirmation and First Communion in St. Michaels.

“In the Footsteps of the Founders” initiative.

The SET pilgrimage to Paris in the footsteps of the founders will take place on October 24th-28th. This year SET will support the Spiritan Mission Animation Office for Ireland (SMAI) who will coordinate this programme this year. Ronan will travel with this group to lead some aspects of the programme.

Bursaries.

Six applications have been received from teachers for bursaries for the 2019-20 academic year. We will assess the applications and without going beyond last year's budget try to support as many people as possible. The primary criterion we use in assessing applications is that the qualification being pursued by the teacher should ultimately benefit the school and its students.

Middle leaders Programme.

We have more applicants than we can accept under the agreed quota system - 19 in total. The E.O. will try to accommodate as many as possible. It is however encouraging that so many of our teachers wish to avail of professional development and is a testament to the quality of training on offer. Our teachers will attend a Dublin venue, but we also have teachers applying from Rockwell who will receive their training in Thurles. Both the SIFM officer and the EO will present at these venues.

New Boards of Management.

We have new BOM's in both St. Mary's Junior and Senior schools from the 15th of October. We have also nominated a trustee representative for Willow Junior. The E.O. has met each of them to establish suitability and experience. All of these people are committed to our ethos and bring significant skills and life experience which will support the Principal and the schools.

Junior Schools I.E.S.E.

Following the decision of the Board to provide an Independent External School Evaluation for our Junior schools, it was agreed that St Michael's Junior and Willow Junior would be evaluated in the current academic year. Willow Junior is scheduled for October and St Michael's in early March 2020. Both school managements are very positive about the process. The report produced following the evaluation conducted in St Mary's last year is available on the Directors' Area of our website.

SET New Teacher induction training.

The proposed date is mid-October. The SET team will host this afternoon in the Talbot Park Hotel, Stillorgan. Teacher induction in Rockwell was completed in late August.

Joint Trusts Middle leadership.

A meeting of the 'Ethos officers' from the Joint Trusts took place in late August to finalise the presentations for the Middle Leadership programme that address the areas of leadership in a Catholic school.

Development Education/ Global Citizenship Education.

To date in this academic year, our school liaison office has had meetings with the school lead teachers. We were informed by WWGS that our Budget was approved for this year.

During September 23rd– 27th Ronan will lead a delegation of teachers and students from St. Michael's who will represent Spiritan Global Citizenship Education / Development Education Network at the Duquesne Integrity of Creation Conference. The work of the schools here in Ireland in the area of Global Citizenship will be offered as a model to high schools in the Pittsburgh area,

SET Anniversary Lecture.

20 years of trusteeship was celebrated on Saturday, the 7th of September in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge and was attended by almost 60 people from the wider Spiritan Community. For all of those present it was an opportunity to look back with gratitude to the achievements of those who went before us and to look forward with confidence and imagination to the opportunities which lie in front of us as we continue to promote "education for transformation through Gospel values".

All of the prayers and addresses presented on the day will be downloaded to the Spiritan website.

Faughs GAA Club.

Discussions are currently taking place between the club and two of our schools to explore the possibility of school sporting facilities being made available to the club while they are upgrading their own facilities.

Both schools are eager to help, and we are hopeful that we can be of assistance.

September Meetings.

A series of meetings was held with Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of our schools over three days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 10th, 11th and 12th of September. At each meeting a representative from each school delivered a short report about their respective school. Pat, Tom S, Ronan and Tom J. also addressed the group.