Annual Report

St. Aloysius School

Sharman Crawford St, Cork

2011-2012

School Mission Statement & Aims of School

St. Aloysius School is an all girls Catholic School founded by the Mercy Order. It has a long tradition of academic excellence and is committed to the development of the whole student. It offers a curriculum designed to meet the needs of the student.

The school wishes to cater for the academic, spiritual, moral, aesthetic, interpersonal and physical needs of the student.

The characteristics of the school are the pursuit of tolerance, compassion and a sense of justice and equality for all.

We aim to develop in each student, confidence, self respect and respect for others.

The school and its staff value its partnership with parents/ guardians in meeting the personal and educational requirements of students and staff alike.

School Development Planning

The focus of School Development Planning during 2011–2012 was the development of subject planning and reviewing the school plan as the school has a new senior management team. Reviewing open evening and all school promotional material has been given priority.

Special Needs Education

Provision for Special Needs/Disadvantaged Students

The school has three Learning Support /Remedial/ Resource Teachers

32 students benefitted from learning support education

Provision. All students are mainstreamed in First Year, with withdrawal when there is an entitlement to hours allocated by the SENO. Hours are generally pooled to enable access to small classes for Core subjects, lower pupil teacher ratio in Maths, English and Irish in Junior Cycle, and to Maths, English, Accounting, Geography, & Irish in Senior Cycle. A reduced timetable is available at Senior Level for students best suited to this option. Modules are offered in “Preparation for the World of Work” & “Information & Communications Technology” to students who take this option, having dropped their Modern European language, due to a Specific Language Difficulty.

• Provision : Individual help in various subjects.

• Exemption in various subjects.

• Computer learning support: laptops & software procured for those with an allocation; audio books downloaded through a new LAN in the Learning Support Room connected to Schools Broadband.

• In-service training for staff in Special Needs area.

• Dyslexia support: special software acquired.

• Collaboration with NEPS, discussions of needs and services available.

• Reasonable Accommodations secured for special needs students for State examinations.

• SNA support with an allocation of 2.5 SNAs allocated to the school.

• Individual Education Plan provision with reviews.

Travelers, 1 student from the Roma community is enrolled in the school in 2011-2012

International Newcomer students Non-Irish students come mainly from Poland, other Eastern European countries, the Philippines & India.

Provision : Language support ¬¬– English as an Additional Language classes run at Irish time, two hours per week for student not taking Irish. Additional English classes are available for EAL students.

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A number of students fall into the disadvantaged category

Provision was made from Capitation funding to supply books/ingredients/ support for needy students. Uniforms, Home Economics ingredients, food and finance for participation in activities especially in Transition Year were supplied as needed. The absence of the Book Grant Funding caused strain on other sources of income. Study facilities provided under a DES funded Targeted Response scheme from October to May. Canteen food was keenly priced to make it affordable. Aim is to ensure that every student can participate fully in all aspects of school life irrespective of financial position of family.

Faith Development in the School

Religion Teaching Time per week: Junior Level 2 hours 40 minutes

Senior Level 2 hours

8 members of Staff are engaged in teaching R.E in 2011 - 2012

The School is not participating in the pilot project for Junior Cert R.E. preferring to focus on Religion as a non-exam subject, with an emphasis on Faith Formation.

Retreats were arranged for senior year groups.

Observance of the Liturgical Year:

Annual School Mass, held in September 2011 in the school.

Advent & Lenten Services for each Year Group. Christmas Carol Service was held prior to Christmas.

Leaving Cert. Graduation Mass, Junior Cert. end of Year Mass were significant events during the month of May.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the clergy of The Lough Parish in the provision of these liturgies.

Our Meditation /Religion Room “Shalom” was in frequent and regular use by class groups for meditation and prayer throughout the year.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the school’s Prayer Room off the main entrance hall. Notices highlighted this facility especially for Lent and for Mary’s month in May.

Culture of Prayer is maintained with many classes, staff and BOM meetings start with a prayer.

Staff Development & Care

CPD for staff was provided for under the agreed Croke Park schedule of meetings and inservice.

Staff Members released on in-service in a number of areas including Project Maths, SPHE and Irish

Staff /Subject reviews were held at end of year.

Staffing:

Cut backs in staffing allocations have resulted in loss of part time teachers and special needs assistants.

Staff levels allow for a very favorable Pupil –Teacher Ratio. Classes are small.

Support for International Newcomer students, some Special Needs students is facilitated through general allocation.

Pastoral Care System in place:

This care is at the heart of education in St. Aloysius and is provided by all staff: subject teachers, class teachers in particular, Year Heads, one for each year, Deputy Principal, Principal. Guidance Counsellor. The system is supportive of student needs and parents are regularly invited to meet staff in response to any concerns raised.

Positive Behaviour

Students are very well behaved in general. The Revised Code of Behaviour and Discipline(2009) is based on Positive Behaviour strategies and is worded positively. The summary of the Code included in the Student Journal has been rewritten in more student friendly language and brought up to date. The Code is given to all parents who come to enroll their daughter.

Parental Involvement – Parents’ Council Report

Parents are encouraged to participate in school life through:

Parent Association Meetings & Activities: Parent-Teacher Meetings, Fundraising,

Open Night, Providing assistance & security support during school events. Canteen support. Supporting teams at matches. Parents’ views on a number of issues are sought regularly. Fundraising was again significant this year. Parents’ Voluntary Contributions support the school enabling it to remain debt free and provide better equipment for educational needs.

Board of Management: The Board of Management of St. Aloysius School met 9 times during 2011/12.

ST. ALOYSIUS: ANNUAL REPORT TO CEIST: 2011-2012: CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The signal event in school government and management this year was the retirement of Vivien Fitzgerald-Smith and the appointment of Yvonne Bane as Principal. Vivien was appropriately thanked by the Board for her long and historic (she was the first lay Principal of our beloved St. Als) service. From the perspective of the Board of Management, the change-over was very well effected, for which both the out-going and the in-coming Principal are to be warmly commended.

In the course of the year, especially in dealing with complex matters arising, the Board availed of the services of CEIST and found the advice and assistance of CEIST personnel enormously helpful: Go gcúití Dia leo a gcabhair.

A feature of school life which the Board has more than once commended this year was the richness of our liturgical celebrations, the welcome and much appreciated product of close co-operation involving the entire school community, teachers and students especially.

Student Council

Composition: One representative from each class. Head Girl

Special Duties Post allocated to Student Council. A post holder coordinates the student council

Weekly Meeting, duration 20 minutes

During 2010-20121 there was strong support by the Student Council for school events including the School Mass, the Lord Mayor’s Visit and Annual Christmas Concert and fund raising activities.Peer support was given to new students and those at risk.

Extra curricular activities

A comprehensive range of extra curricular activities was available to students:

Debating, Public Speaking; Quizzes in General Knowledge, Irish, Science and Maths. St Aloysius succeeded in having 2 projects getting through to the Young Scientist Exhibition 2012.

Sports: Tennis, Sailing, Swimming and Badminton were provided. The annual Outdoor Pursuits trip to Cappanalea was a great success.

Fundraising for charity was undertaken, notably for Trocaire, Concern, Amnesty,

Breast Cancer Awareness, SHARE.

Enrolment Challenges

2007-2008 291 students

2008-2009 291 students

2009-2010 290 students with some latecomers not included in October returns

2010-2011 282 students

2011 – 2012 272 students

Attention to good discipline, small classes, excellent results in State examinations & the success of Transition Year is assisting the stabilization of numbers. 34 students opted to do Transition Year in 2011-12 bigger number than usual, 38 entered First Year. Fewer Eastern European students are now enrolling. The trend is students from the Philippines and the Indian sub-continent. These girls are mostly Catholic in faith. They have a strong work ethic and are an asset to the school.

Financial Situation: A major review of the school`s financial situation has been carried out by the newly appointed school Principal in conjunction with the Board of Management and the Finance sub- committee. This work has been supported by the FSSU and Mr Mike Higgins of CEIST. Members of the Board of Management have attended financial training run by the FSSU and Mr Fergus Dunne, Director of the FSSU has had a number of meetings with the Chairperson and secretary of the Board as well as members of the finance sub- committee. The accounts package TAZ has been introduced to the school with training being provided by the FSSU. The Board has also engaged the services of the new accounts to prepare the financial report and year end accounts. New procedures have been put in place in the organsiation of school finances and purchase procedures. This work has ensured that structures and procedures have been put in place to ensure maximum levels of compliance with requlatory requirements as set out by the FSSU. It also attempts to keep the school on a strong financial footing into the future.

State of Buildings, Plant etc. new windows have been replaced in the south side of the school building as part of the summer works scheme 2011. General maintenance is good and the building is in good order

Yvonne Bane

Principal / Secretary Board of Management 2011/12