

**Cumann Pheadair Naofa**  
**(St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint)**  
**[www.warrenpointgaa.com](http://www.warrenpointgaa.com)**



**CUMANN PHEADAIR NAOFA C.L.G.**  
**OIFIGEACH IDIRCHAIDRIMH SCOILE**

**(SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER)**

**REPORT TO CLUB AGM**  
**20 OCTOBER 2023**

20/10/2023

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Cumann Pheadair Naofa Club School Links after a few disruptive years of covid 19 pandemic restrictions renewed its strong relationship in the academic year of 2022-23. The main focus of the Cumann Pheadair Naofa Club School Link was with the well-established partnership between Cumann Pheadair Naofa and St. Dallan's Primary School. Principal Una Farrell and GAA Co-ordinator Mr Brendan Rice and Cumann Pheadair Naofa Senior Committee Member Mrs Noreen Kelly, are still very committed to the partnership and the development of a strong Club School Link. The Club/School link started strong in 2022 with celebrating CPN getting to the Clubs Senior Football Final. The school was decorated in blue and white bunting and the children were able to wear their jerseys into school with competitions on the Friday before Final.

## **3. COACHING**

Thankfully coaching was able to be provided over the academic year of 2022/23 in St Dallans in football, hurling and camogie.

Ulster GAA provided a coach Lauren Clarke from Sept 22 to Feb 23 and she provided coaching to initially P4/7 in the first term and younger classes P1/P5 in the second term.

### **Hurling/Camogie**

The hurling section continued to provide excellent support to St. Dallan's in terms of coaching.

In the third term Declan Doyle and Sean O Hare provided afterschool training for the P5 boys which was attended by 14 boys.

We were very fortunate with the new addition of P7 teacher Elizabeth Wilson who joined St Dallans teaching staff in the school term 2. With her successful career in gaelic sports she was able to provide camogie/hurling training to the P6/P7 teams with the assistance of Brendan Rice. This meant that the school were able to attend Blitzes and enter the Bunscoil competitions this year. The school also attended indoor camogie competitions and were finished runners up in the Cumann na mBunscol indoor Camogie Final.

A massive thank you to Elizabeth Wilson for her support in bringing the passion for Camogie back to the school.

In Term 3 Oisín MacManus from Ulster GAA offered the opportunity for coaching of hurling/camogie. This was facilitated by St Dallans and coaching was provided to P5s during PE classes.

The school camogie and hurling team finished the year with a school blitz at Carrick School with Schools from Hilltown and Downpatrick.

## **Football**

After school training started back September and was taken by Brendan Rice. The boys entered the Bunscoil competitions. After Term 1 the Club recognised that Brendan Rice could do with help with the coaching of these football training sessions through the whole school. The football committee called a meeting to set up a new programme of coaching for the school. Fortunately, with the appointment of Elizabeth Wilson she was able to assist Brendan with this coaching for the school team in the after-school training.

After mid term in Term 2 Fridays became a full day of football coaching at St Dallans. From 9am to 3pm there was at least one CPN coach in each PE class coaching kids trying to reach as many classes as possible and commenced with P3, P4 and P6. Much appreciation to the coaches that took the time to come into the school. They were Colm Rice, Christy Carr, John Boyle, Gary McMahon, Triona McNicholas, Paul Stokes and special thanks to Steve Robinson for not only coaching but organising the successful coaching programme from start to finish.

A Down coach (Benny Coulter) was also supplied by the Club to give additional coaching to the P5 Boys Term 3.

## **Ladies Gaelic Football**

The girls were being provided similar coaching to the boys from the in school coaching programme. The P6/P7 team were being coach every Thursday by Brendan Rice in Term 1 and Elizabeth Wilson and Brendan Rice Term 2/3.

This meant that the school were able to attend Blitzes and enter the Bunscoil competitions this year. The girls were very successful and made it through to the second round which unfortunately they were unable to attend due to a clash with Confirmation commitments.

Indoor tournaments were also attended and the team got through to quarter finals.

## **Handball**

The handball wall that has been used in St Dallan's in past years has been damaged and is no longer available for use. Handball is currently not being coached in school.

## **4. ANNUAL GAA HEALTH AND WELLBEING DAY**

St Dallan's Primary School in partnership with Cumann Pheadair Naofa hosted a highly enjoyable GAA health and wellbeing day in St. Dallan's for primary seven pupils on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

In the morning the pupils participated in workshops with trivia and puzzles based on GAA sports. They also received a talk from Conor Laverty on the importance of diet and exercise and an opportunity to ask him questions.

Coaching was a major focus of the day with pupils receiving coaching in football, camogie, hurling, and ladies gaelic football. Elizabeth Wilson sourced the very successful external coaches to show the children what can be achieved in gaelic sport.

These coaches were Sarah Louise Carr (Down Camogie), Danny Magill, Ross Carr (Down football), Amy and Blaithin Mackin (Armagh Ladies football) and Oisín McManus (Ulster GAA Hurling)

Club Coaches also give up their time to assist in coaching for this special day. Thanks to Johnny Rooney, Caoimhe Shannon and Ciara Carr

## **5. COMMUNICATION**

Communication has been central to the development of the Cumann Pheadair Naofa / St. Dallan's Club School Link.

The following areas continue to be developed. They are as follows:

- St. Dallan's and Cumann Pheadair Naofa websites linked to each other.
- A link to St. Dallan's website is already on the website.
- St. Dallan's Primary School and Cumann Pheadair Naofa Fact Sheet was distributed to all P1 pupils at St. Dallan's Induction Day in May 2021.
- St. Dallan's and Cumann Pheadair Naofa share good news stories through promotion on both school and club website. There is excellent co-operation between St. Dallan's and Cumann Pheadair Naofa in acknowledging success of pupils in Gaelic Games.
- Cumann Pheadair Naofa frequently carry stories in club notes in relation to successes in St. Dallan's Primary School. Thanks to Club PRO Aisling McGivern for all her assistance.
- At the request of Cumann Pheadair Naofa, St. Dallan's staff frequently distribute notes to the pupils on club activities.
- St. Dallan's/Cumann Pheadair Naofa GAA noticeboard is frequently updated.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE CLUB / SCHOOL LINK WITH ST. DALLAN'S**

Principal Una Farrell has put in place an arrangement whereby Cumann Pheadair Naofa Club /School Liaison Officer will meet with GAA Co-ordinator Brendan Rice each term to ascertain how the partnership is progressing and to look at ways of enhancing the Cumann Pheadair Naofa / St. Dallan's Club School Link.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

The 22/23 year was a tremendous success after the few past years that had been halted. I feel that the school/club link has returned to full strength and will only build over next few years.

I would like to record special thanks to Principal Una Farrell, GAA Co-ordinator Brendan Rice, Elizabeth Wilson for their support and professionalism in delivering GAA activities in St. Dallan's Primary School through this year.

I take this opportunity to leave the role after 7 years as Club School liaison Officer and thank everyone that made the role rewarding and I wish Eimear Rice all the best in this role going forward.

I wish St. Dallan's Primary School, staff, and pupils every success in the years ahead and continued progress in the promotion of Gaelic Games.

**Brigid Carr**  
**(Club / School Liaison Officer)**  
**20 October 2023**