

## Fred O'Connell Award Winners

Congratulations to Scoil Nano Nagle Parents' Association who were awarded joint 1st Place in the National Parents' Council's Fred O'Connell Award. This took place at the NPC Education Conference on June 16, 2018 in the National College of Ireland. They received this award for their initiative on 'Well-Being'. The Minister for Education Richard Bruton was there too and it was a great day! The prize is a beautiful glass trophy & free membership for the year to NPC.

**The Fred O'Connell Award** recognises innovative partnership work between parents and schools that supports children to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. It shows innovation in 6 areas of Parental Involvement: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at Home, Decision Making & Collaborating with the Community

**Our theme was 'Well-Being'**. This involved designing a Parents Room, making our Play Therapy Room more welcoming & child-friendly & improving the aesthetics of the school garden. This incorporated introducing Fairy Doors & a Worry Plaque where children can share their worries. The Adult classes focused on healthy cooking & knitting & mindfulness cds were bought for classes to help the children learn ways of keeping a healthy mind. A directory for children's clubs in the area was created as well as a directory of agencies in the area to support families. These will be available on our school website. Well done all!

### **This project comprised of very simple initiatives.**

Improving the physical environment of the school for the children, teachers and parents/families. Providing some useful information for families on after-school clubs and support agencies in the area. Sharing some helpful tips on physical & mental wellbeing with families & teachers through the weekly newsletter/apps & mindfulness cds in the classroom. The whole school community was involved & a Well-Being Week was a suitable end to the project. The good will of the volunteers was amazing and it was a very rewarding project for all involved. We are lucky in our Parents' Association in Scoil Nano Nagle to have so many motivated parents who want to improve school life & learning for the children. We greatly value the involvement of parents in our school & thank the Parents' Association for their continued support and dedication.

