

Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa
Ballymurn, Wexford
Board of Management – Annual Report 2019-2020

Fáilte romhaibh go léir. Caithfidh mé a rá go raibh bliain an-ghnóthach ag an mBord Bainistíochta. Seo a leanas cúntas ar imeachtaí an Bhoird i rith na bliana 2019-2020.

The purpose of this Annual Report of the Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa National School is to provide a summary of information on the operation of the school in line with the requirements of the 1998 Education Act.

This Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website www.ballymurnns.ie, the various newsletters issued by the school, circulars to parents, texts to parents, Facebook page, induction evening, Booklet for Parents of Infants Starting School and information provided to parents at parent teacher meetings.

A new Board of Management took office on December 1st, 2019 and we extend our gratitude on behalf of all members of the school community to the outgoing members for their hard work and dedication over the past four years.

It has been a very busy school year, made very strange by the global Covid-19 pandemic that forced our school to close in March until next September and the main focus of the Board of Management at present is to prepare for reopening our school in light of Covid-19 guidelines and to open our Crescent Class, which will cater for pupils who have a diagnosis of ASD.

Board of Management members

Matthew Kelly (Chairperson, Patron's Rep), Emer O'Gorman (Secretary), Mairéad Cummins (Treasurer, Parent Nominee), Fr. Jim Finn (Patron's Rep), Chloe Ormonde (Teacher Nominee), Greg Wade (Parent Nominee), Mary Maher (Community Nominee) and Eoin O'Connor (Community Nominee)

Policy Development

The following policies were developed /reviewed and ratified over the past year: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, Anti-Bullying Policy, Admissions Policy, Acceptable Use of Internet Policy, Religious Education Policy.

School Ethos

Our school is an inclusive school, who work in conjunction with Ballymurn parish to uphold our Catholic ethos. We worked with Fr. Finn to celebrate various religious feasts over the course of the school year. 30 pupils from 5th and 6th class received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Denis Brennan in Ballymurn Church on March 3rd, and 11 pupils from 2nd class are due to receive their First Holy Communion at the end of September.

Opening of New ASD Class

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Our Board of Management successfully applied in the Spring to open an ASD class in Ballymurn N.S. This application was successful and next September a very exciting chapter begins in Ballymurn N.S., with the opening of 'The Crescent Class', which will cater for pupils diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The name 'Crescent' was chosen for this special class by our staff as it symbolises new beginnings and the making of dreams into reality. All members of the school community look forward to welcoming our new pupils at the end of August.

Emergency Works/ Buildings

All windows in the old part of the school were replaced last summer under the Department of Education Summer Works Scheme(SWS), and the trees to the side of the school were replaced by fencing under the Emergency Works Scheme. (EWS)

This summer Emergency Works are due to be carried out to replace old timber floors in the older part of the building. This work has been approved to be carried out under the EWS, and we hope to be able to complete it before the children return to school.

Child Protection

Our Child Safeguarding Statement can be viewed on our website www.ballymurnns.ie and is on display the front door of our school. Our current Designated Liaison Person(DLP) is the school principal Emer O'Gorman and the Deputy DLP is the deputy-principal Niamh Lawlor.

Curriculum

Mandatory Curriculum Programmes: Due to the unforeseen school closure, Stay Safe programmes were not fully completed this year. They will be covered in the first term of the new school year. The Relationship and Sexuality programme was also not completed, but advice that the school received in this regard was sent to parents of sixth class pupils.

Implementation of new Primary Language Curriculum: Teachers engaged with all new elements of the PLC and attended in-service in preparation for this.

School Self-Evaluation: Following consultation with the inspectorate in November, SSE plans were updated and a focus was placed on Reading Fluency for the remainder of the school year. This work will continue when school reopens.

Staffing

In September 2020, our school will have five mainstream class teachers, one ASD class teacher, one full time Special Education Teacher, and a part time Special Education Teacher (7 hours) We will have 3.83 SNA posts. Our ancillary staff consists of a secretary, care taker and cleaner, and we will also have a bus escort.

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Board of Management Meetings

B.O.M meetings were held on the following dates: 14th August 2019, 18th September 2019, 8th January 2020, 4th March 2020 and 5th August 2020.

Finances

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with DES requirements, which come from the FSSU. (Financial Services Support Unit)

Our accounts were prepared by Foley Doyle&Co Chartered Certified Accountants and submitted to the FSSU on February 28th. Mairéad Cummins was appointed as new B.O.M treasurer at our last meeting and will issue a financial report at each meeting from now. The accounts are computerised by our office administrator Leanna Redmond.

We would like to thank parents for making their annual €100 voluntary contribution to the school, and for the many other ways that they support the school through various fundraisers. This year we raised funds from our Halloween Hike, Christmas Craft Fair, Pancake Tuesday, Ballymurn Fun Run, Slaney Inn Bingo and non-uniform day, as well as through generous sponsorship from local businesses.

Parents' Association

The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents' Association for all their hard work and support during the 2019/2020 school year. They would like to encourage more parents to become part of this association which is such an important part of the culture of the school.

School Reopening

The Board of Management are currently preparing for the reopening of our school at the end of August following the publication of the Roadmap for Reopening Schools, published by the DES in the last week of July. We will be working with all stakeholders to ensure that we reopen in the safest way possible.

Conclusion

The Board of Management would like to thank all staff members for their continued hard work and dedication to the school. We also extend our thanks to the parents in our school community who are always so supportive of everything we do to give the

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children all possible opportunities in our school. The efforts made by parents, pupils and staff to adjust to remote learning this year were so admirable.

Moving forward, we are facing a very challenging school year, where our key objective is to enable our pupils to attend school to be educated and socialise with their peers in a safe environment. All members of the school community will need to take personal responsibility to ensure that this can happen, and as a Board of Management, we endeavour to provide every possible support that we can. Wishing all the best to all members of the school community as they return in the next few weeks.

Matt Kelly, Chairperson B.O.M

Date: 8th August 2020