

Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa
Ballymurn, Wexford
Board of Management – Annual Report 2020-2021

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 2020-2021.

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.

The current members of the Board of Management took office on December 1st, 2019 and will run for a four year term.

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, Sensory Room Policy, Code of Behaviour, S.E.S.E Policy, EPV 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. 11 pupils in 3rd class celebrated their First Holy Communion last September, and we look forward to our current second class celebrating this sacrament when restrictions allow.

Opening of New ASD Class

Our school opened 'The Crescent Class', which is a special class for pupils with ASD, in September 2020. This was a huge undertaking by the BOM, management and staff of the school, and has been a great success so far. The BOM carried out lots of work to ensure the environment was safe and suitable for our new pupils. A whole staff training day also took place in February 2021.

Emergency Works/ Buildings

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Last summer, an emergency floor replacement project was carried out in the school, funded by the DES, under the Emergency Works Scheme. This involved the complete removal of old wooden floors, that had rotted and started to collapse, which were then replaced by new concrete floors.

A second Emergency Works project also had to be undertaken during the year. This was a fencing project, which was granted by the DES to secure the entire boundary of the school, ensuring that the site is safe for all children during the day. There is further work to do to add to this fencing on the Senior side of the yard.

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 Chloe Ormonde.

Curriculum

Mandatory Curriculum Programmes: All classes completed the Stay Safe and Relationships and Sexuality Education S.P.H.E programmes this year.

Implementation of new Primary Language Curriculum: Teachers engaged with all new elements of the PLC.

Staffing

In September 2021, 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. These will be installed this summer.

ICT

Following receipt of the ICT grant for schools, an audit of all ICT equipment in use classrooms was carried out. Upgrades were then carried out on the interactive whiteboard equipment in four of the five mainstream classrooms with the purchase of a Smart Panel and 3 Epson interactive projectors. These will be installed this summer. ICT funding was also used to fund our remote learning platform Seesaw, which was used by all classes when school buildings were closed.

Board of Management Meetings

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B.O.M meetings were held on the following dates: 16th September 2020, 6th October 2020, 18th November 2020, 19th January 2021, 4th March 2021, 29th April 2021 and 18th June 2021.

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 is B.O.M treasurer and issues 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, Ballymurn Fun Run, and non-uniform day, as well as through generous sponsorship from local businesses. Normally, we fundraise quite a lot more than this, but many events could not go ahead due to Covid-19, which had a significant impact on school revenue.

Parents' Association

The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents' Association for all their hard work and support during the 2020/21 school year. Because of Covid-19, no AGM or meetings took place this year, and a number of parents who want to step down from the committee stayed on in a caretaking capacity, organising things such as a lovely Christmas gift for each pupil the school and barbecue for Sports Day. We look forward to the A.G.M in September, and the BOM would really like to encourage more parents to become involved in the P.A., which brings so much extra to school life for all pupils.

Covid-19

Much of the work of The Board of Management over the past year has been related to managing the school during the Covid-19 pandemic. Last summer, a comprehensive Covid Response Plan and risk assessment was developed by the BOM, and has been regularly reviewed since, to meet the changing needs of the school during the pandemic. Sanitising units were installed all over the school, enhanced cleaning regimes planned, and a footpath was constructed from the yard, up by the edge of the pitch, to the bridge that accesses the upstairs classrooms. This enabled the children to enter their classrooms directly, without mixing with

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other groups in the corridors. Overall, the BOM are happy with how the Covid Response Plan has worked, and wish to thank parents for being so compliant with any measures that were introduced to keep people safe.

The BOM would also like to thank the staff, for all the tireless work that has been put in, to change every routine in the school to stay within guidelines. Huge work was put in to move learning from in class to online platforms, which the majority of pupils engaged in wonderfully.

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 children all possible opportunities in our school.

We hope that the next school year will bring much more positive times, and look forward to a return of relative normality within the school day. Wishing all of our pupils, staff and their families, along with all other members of our school community an enjoyable summer break.

Is mise le meas,

Matt Kelly, Chairperson B.O.M

Date: 18th June 2021