

Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa
Ballymurn, Wexford
Board of Management – Annual Report 2021-2022

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 2021-2022.

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, Safety Statement, Code of Conduct for External Agencies for Sports and the Arts, Guidelines for Student Teachers and those on work experience, Statement of Strategy for School Attendance, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Behaviour, Managing Behaviours of Concern.

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. 3rd Class pupils celebrated their First Confession and First Holy Communion last September and 2nd class pupils celebrated these sacraments in May. Our 5th/6th Class pupils received the sacrament of Confirmation in May and also attended a spiritual retreat following this.

Emergency Works/ Buildings

Fencing works were completed around the school this year.

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Child Protection

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was updated last November to reflect the new template required by the DES and 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, and also engaged in Sustained Support with the PDST in relation to the PLC. This support focussed on developing pupils’ Irish reading ability and will continue next year.

Staffing

In September 2022, 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 (7.5 hours) We will have 4 SNA posts. Our ancillary staff consists of a secretary, care taker and cleaner, and we will also have bus escorts.

ICT

Following receipt of the ICT grant for schools, further tablets were purchased meaning we now have a full class set of tablets for pupil use. Three teacher laptop were also replaced this year. ICT funding was also used to fund our remote learning platform Seesaw, which also serves as an assessment tool for folders, and to fund Mangahigh, a programme children use at home for maths.

Furniture Grant

The B.O.M secured DES funding to replace all of the dilapidated chairs and tables in the school, which was completed in early 2022.

Board of Management Meetings

B.O.M meetings were held on the following dates: 14th September 2021, 9th November 2021, 30th November 2021, 10th January 2022, 24th March 2022, 21st June 2022 and 28th July 2022.

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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.

Parents' Association

The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents' Association for all their hard work and support during the 2021/22 school year. The committee are a fantastic support to the school, organising things such as a lovely Christmas gift for each pupil the school and a barbecue for Sports Day. They also gave Communion gifts to pupils who celebrated the sacraments, and provided teas and coffees to parents at our Open Evening. They ran an Easter raffle as a fundraiser and were able to sponsor part of the bus fees for school tours. 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.. Overall, the BOM are happy with how the Covid Response in our school has worked, and wish to thank parents for being so compliant with any measures that were introduced to keep people safe. However, the Board of Management must acknowledge that Covid had a much greater effect on the running of the school during the 2021-2022 year than it did previously. Almost all staff members were ill with Covid at some point, and there were huge difficulties securing substitute staff due to staffing shortages that affected all schools.

The BOM would also like to thank the staff, for all the tireless work that has been put in, and supporting their classes and substitutes from home to keep things ticking over.

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Covid also had a massive impact on school attendance rates by pupils this year, and led to the highest absenteeism rates ever recorded in the school. Many pupils were quite ill during the year and a lot of teaching time was lost, meaning that there is lots of catching up to be done. The BOM hopes that the DES will acknowledge this, and put appropriate supports in place to help pupils recover from learning time lost.

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 be a healthy, successful and happy one for all members of our school community. 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: 28th July 2022