

Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa
Ballymurn, Wexford
Board of Management – Annual Report 2023- 2024

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 2022-2023.

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.

Boards of Management are elected for a four year cycle, and this process took place at the beginning of the 2023/4 school year. The current members of the Board of Management took office on December 1st, 2023 and will run for a four year term. The Board expresses it's thanks to those volunteers who served the school so well during the 2019-2023 term.

Board of Management members

Matthew Kelly (Chairperson, Patron's Rep), Emer O'Gorman (Secretary), Mairéad Cummins (Treasurer, Community Nominee), Fr. Jim Finn (Patron's Rep), Chloe Ormonde (Teacher Nominee), Darren Roche (Parent Nominee), Christine Redmond (Parent Nominee) and Anne Kehoe (Community Nominee)

Policy Development

The following policies were developed /reviewed and ratified over the past year: Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, Health and Safety, Anti-Bullying, Code of Behaviour, Plean Gaeilge, Critical Incident Management Plan.

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. 2nd Class pupils celebrated their First Confession and First Holy Communion in April. 5th and 6th Class pupils received the sacrament of Confirmation in June. All classes had the opportunity to attend mass with their class and the whole school beginning and end of year masses resumed.

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Child Safeguarding

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was updated last March and can be viewed on our website www.ballymurnns.ie and is on display at the front door of our school. Our 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.

Introduction of the new Primary Maths Curriculum Framework: Teachers attended the whole school training day for the new mathematics curriculum.

School Self-Evaluation: A new cycle of SSE commenced in 2023, and the focus of this cycle is Wellbeing.

A complete new primary school curriculum will be rolled out over the next number of years. We have applied and been accepted to engage with the ‘Say Yes to Languages’ initiative next year, which will be lead by Ms. Sheehan, introducing French to our 4th-6th class pupils.

Staffing

In September 2024, our school will have five mainstream class teachers, one autism class teacher, one full time Special Education Teacher, and another for ten hours per week, who will also spend two days a week in Crossabeg N.S. We will have 4 SNA posts. Our ancillary staff consists of a secretary, caretaker and cleaner, and we will also have bus escorts.

The board received sanction in March from the N.C.S.E to open a second autism class in September 2025. The school greatly welcomes this news and looks forward to be able to enrol many more of the pupils who express interest in the Crescent Class each year.

ICT

The ICT grant for schools this year allowed us to maintain all of the items purchased in recent years, and fund a laptop for our new teacher post. It will also be used to fund subscriptions for appropriate websites and apps for use on our tablets.

STEM Grant

The school applied for, and was awarded a STEM grant this year. Some of this money was spent on maths resource kits for the older class groups. We are also in the process of purchasing Lego education materials with this money.

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Buildings and Infrastructure

Emergency Works Floor Replacement project, which was approved in 2023, will take place in Summer 2024, replacing the failing suspended timber floors in the rooms to right of the front door.

A reconfiguration project has been approved by the Department to bring the rooms that accommodate our current autism class and future autism class up to required standards. A project management firm has been appointed to oversee this and have visited the school recently to prepare the viability report. This work is due to take place over the summer holidays

The Board has also recently been granted approval for the construction of new SET rooms to replace the rooms that will be reconfigured to accommodate the second autism class. Invitations to tender for the consultancy role in this project have been issued.

School Books Grant

The children's school books and copies are all covered for the coming year under this grant. This grant was cut the Department from the level offered last year and the BOM expresses it's disappointment at this.

Board of Management Meetings

B.O.M meetings were held on the following dates: 17th October 2023, 30th November 2023, 12th December 2023, 23rd January 2024, 28th March 2024 and 19th June 2024.

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 28th of February. Mairéad Cummins is B.O.M treasurer and issues a financial report at each meeting. The accounts are computerised by our office administrator Leanna Redmond.

We would like to thank parents for making their annual 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,

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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 2023/24 school year. The committee are a fantastic support to the school, organising things such as a lovely Christmas gift for each pupil in the school and a barbecue for Sports Day, as well as a barbecue after the Ballymurn 5k Fun Run. They also 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. We are currently fundraising for playground equipment and parental support will be vital to get this over the line.

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

Matt Kelly, Chairperson B.O.M

Date: 19th June 2024