

Scoil Baile an Droichid: Board of Management

Annual Report 2020-2021: August 2021

Board of Management 2020/2021

Chairperson	Paul Tuohy
Treasurer	Liam Hession
Secretary	Orlaith Foster
Teacher Nominee	Fiona Walsh
Parent Nominees	Amanda Haynes Thomas Ryan
Community Nominees	Liam Hession Chris McLaughlin
Patron's Nominee	Fr. Jerry O'Brien

School Ethos

Fr. Jerry O'Brien visited the school to support children in their spiritual development whilst adhering to Covid-19 regulations and guidelines. The sacrament of First Penance was held on Thursday 10th June 2021.

The sacrament of First Holy Communion was held on Sunday September 12th 2021.

The sacrament of Confirmation was held on Sunday 29th August 2021.

The Board wishes to thank Mrs Mona Kelly and Ms Mary Crotty for the preparation of pupils for these sacraments.

6th Class Graduation took place on Monday 21st June 2021.

Board of Management Meetings

The Board of Management met on the following dates:

Thursday 13th August 2020

Thursday 8th October 2020

Thursday 3rd February 2021

Tuesday 20th April 2021

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

An agenda is set in advance of each meeting.

The Board of Management operates under the guidelines of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA)

School Inspector

The school principal Orlaith Foster spoke to the school inspector Anne Fitzpatrick by telephone. The school's experience of remote teaching in the previous school year was discussed.

Child Protection Guidelines

The school's Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the principal Orlaith Foster.

The school's Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is acting deputy principal Eimear McNamara.

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are on display in all classrooms and in the school corridor. The Child Protection Oversight Report is read at every Board meeting.

Covid-19

Staff and Board of Management developed the Covid-19 Logistical Plan. These policies were updated in line with Covid restrictions: Supervision, School Visitors, Health & Safety Pastoral Care, Attendance, Absent Staff, EPV days, School Meetings, Home School Links, School Day, Emergency Closures, Use of School Premises, Contact with other schools, Student Council, Information for Student Teachers and Visiting Staff, School Garden, School Tours & Outings and Homework Policy. The school's Lead Worker Representative (LWR) is Elaine Ryan and the Deputy Lead Worker Representative is Mona Kelly. Covid-19 cases were managed with the Public Health Team.

Staffing 2020-2021

4 Mainstream Class Teachers

2 Full-time SET (Special Education Teachers)

4 permanent teachers, 3 fixed term contracts

2 permanent teachers on career breaks

1 part-time SNA (Special Needs Assistant)

1 Teaching Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal

Junior & Senior Infants: Fiona Walsh

1st & 2nd Classes: Mona Kelly

3rd & 4th Classes: Elaine Ryan

5th Class: Eimear McNamara

6th Class: Mary Crotty

SET: Orlaith Foster

Cluster Substitute for Principal

Administration Release Days: Jonathan

Mulready Moore

Shared SET with Boher NS: Adrian Kelly

Shared SET with Doonbeg NS: Tom Ryan

SNA: Anne Marsh McMahon

School Secretary: Robina Jones

School Cleaner: Rebecca Hussey

Appointments

The Board appointed Rebecca Hussey as the school cleaner in October 2020.

The Board appointed Anne Marsh McMahon as the school's part-time SNA in April 2021.

The Board appointed Jonathan Mulready Moore as the school's cluster substitute for principal administration days.

A big welcome was extended to the new members of our staff.

Retirement

The Board wishes to thank Marion Howard for her tireless work as the school's cleaner over the past 25 years. We wish her joy and happiness in her retirement.

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Policy Development & Review

The Board completed the annual review of the following:
Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment
Anti-Bullying Policy
Code of Behaviour
The Board ratified the following policies and plans:
Covid-19 Policy Statement
Covid-19 Logistical Plan
Remote Learning Plan
Communication Plan

In School Management Team

Principal: Orlaith Foster
Acting Deputy Principal: Eimear McNamara
Assistant Principal: Fiona Walsh
The In School Management Team held formal meetings once a term and held informal meetings on a regular basis.

Parents' Association

The Board of Management will assess interest in reforming the school's parents' association in the next school year.

School Buildings/Maintenance

School Roof: the school applied to the Department of Education for funding as part of the Emergency Works Grant. There is ongoing vandalism of the school roof and the Gardaí and insurance company have been informed. Hot water heaters were installed in all classes. A washing machine/dryer was installed. A deep clean of the school was completed over the October mid-term break.

Student Council

The school's student council elections did not go ahead due to Covid restrictions. Hopefully the council will be restarted in the coming school year.

Enrolment

New Junior Infants: parents' evening did not go ahead. Parents and pupils met Mrs Walsh at the end of August 2020 in preparation for their first day of school.
September 2021: 18 pupils have enrolled with an approximate total figure of 102 on roll. Transfers to and from other schools may happen over the summer holidays.

Curriculum

Revision of curricular work was a priority for the early part of the year with emphasis on SPHE, Maths and PE.
The RAZ programme was purchased for remote learning in literacy.
Standardised Tests in literacy and numeracy were given in late May and early June.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs McNamara will cater for the pupils with SEN in her class setting. Ms Foster and Mr Kelly will withdraw pupils for support teaching. SNA application was granted in April 2021. The supplementary teaching scheme and summer provision scheme provided extra tuition hours for pupils with additional needs in their own homes.

Parental Communication

Communication with parents was through email mainly and will continue for the coming year. It will replace paper newsletters. The parent teacher meetings were held by phonecall over two days in January 2021.

Community Links

The school was not used by the community groups due to covid restrictions. Bridge Celtic soccer club used the field for underage training and summer camps.

Attendance

The school was closed from January to March 2021 and this affected attendance figures. However, most teachers reported good attendance on remote teaching lessons and classes on a daily basis.

Events

Competition and event participation was severely curtailed due to the pandemic.
Student Placements: Student teachers were in 3rd & 4th class and 1st & 2nd class
Pupils performed for each other for their Christmas event by Zoom.
School Tours: 6th class went to Derg Isle in Scariff for their school tour in June.
School Sports Day: an ice cream van brought treats for the pupils after their sports day.

Continuous Professional Development

All teachers completed webinars and online courses during the school year and over the summer holidays. The Board supports the teaching staff and all staff in their continuous professional development.

The Board of Management wishes to thank all those in the community who contribute to the running of our school. The school will open for the new school year on Tuesday 31st August.