

Scoil Baile an Droichid: Board of Management

Annual Report 2021-2022: August 2022

Board of Management 2021/2022

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 and sacramental preparation.

The sacrament of First Penance was held on Wednesday 30th March 2022.

The sacrament of First Holy Communion was held on Sunday 15th May 2022.

The sacrament of Confirmation was held on Sunday 8th May 2022.

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 20th June 2022. Pupils attended mass and ceremonies in the church throughout the year.

Board of Management Meetings

The Board of Management met on the following dates: Monday 4th October 2021
Wednesday 15th December 2021
Thursday 8th February 2022
Tuesday 5th April 2022
June 2022

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 was in contact with the school inspector Anne Fitzpatrick by telephone.

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. Revised templates were approved by the Board.

Covid-19

Staff and Board of Management reviewed our Covid-19 Logistical Plan. 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. Parents were kept informed at all times and their support during the pandemic has been fantastic. A HEPA filter was purchased and classrooms benefited from carbon dioxide monitors. Masks were worn by pupils in 3rd-6th classes and pods were still in operation until well into the second term.

Staffing 2021-2022

4 Mainstream Class Teachers
2 Full-time SETs (Special Education Teachers)
4 permanent teachers, 2 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 & 6th Class: Mary Crotty
SETs: Orlaith Foster & Eimear McNamara
Cluster Substitute for Principal
Administration Release Days: Joy Mellett
Shared SET with Boher NS: Niamh Hogan
Shared SET with Doonbeg NS: Tom Ryan
SNA: Anne Marsh McMahon
School Secretary: Robina Jones
School Cleaner: Rebecca Hussev

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.

Student Council

The school's student council elections took place in October 2021. Pupils from 3rd-6th classes voted for the candidates. The following pupils were elected: Niamh Slattery, Caitlin Hayes, Seán Ryan, Rory McNamara, Lucy Hynes, Aoife Slattery, Oisín Long, Ryan P Nolan, Tina O'Shea, Emma Nolan, John Guinane and Fionn Power. The student council met regularly over the school year and discussed topics such as the school's green flag application, policy reviews, wellbeing surveys and the school history book project.

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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; Admissions Notice
The Board ratified the following policies and plans: Covid-19 Logistical Plan 2021-2022 Intimate Care Policy; Health & Safety Covid-19 Amendment; End of Year Report 2020-2021
The following curricular plans were reviewed: Drama, Religion, History, Music and Geography

Curriculum

Teachers reviewed the above curricular policies. The Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) training for teachers took place via webinars over 3 separate half days, one per term. Standardised Tests in literacy and numeracy were given in late May and early June. The school had activities and webinars for curricular events such as Science Week, Maths Week, World Book Day, Library Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Literacy Lift Off

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

The English, Maths and Gaeilge school improvement plans were reviewed. The current focus is on Wellbeing. Teachers will use the SSE framework to develop the school's Wellbeing policy. Wellbeing surveys were completed by parents, pupils and staff. Further focus groups will take place in the new school year.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs McNamara, Ms Foster and Ms Hogan combined a mixture of pupil withdrawal and in-class support for support teaching. Literacy Lift Off in 1st/2nd class was very successful. Aistear in infants and Maths stations were also trailed. The summer provision scheme provided extra tuition hours for pupils with additional needs in their own homes. Assessment is continuous all year around and is undertaken by both the class teachers and SEN teachers

Continuous Professional Development

All teachers completed webinars and online courses during the school year and over the summer holidays. The Board supports all staff in their continuous professional development. Staff received training in RSE, Wellbeing, Dignity in the Workplace, First Aid and Medical training to list a few. Board of Management training is offered to members by the CPSMA and St. Senan's Education Office.

Parents' Association

There was no interest in forming a Parents Council for the 2021-2022 school year. The principal will ask parents again in the new school year.

Enrolment

The Board of Management reviewed the school's Admissions Policy. The enrolment for 2021-2022 was 98 pupils. Mrs Walsh met with the new infants and their parents in June 2021. There are 9 entrants due to start for September 2022.

School Buildings/Maintenance

School Roof: the school is currently applying to the Department of Education for funding as part of the Emergency Works Grant. There are issues with the structure of the school building and roof areas. Two separate building surveys were carried out. A deep clean of the school was completed over the October mid-term break. The school insurer assessed the outdoor areas of the school. CCTV cameras were installed and signage put up around the school. Quotes for tarmac resurfacing were received. The school is currently focusing on the outdoor environment and will look at creating an outdoor classroom and sensory garden. Other ideas include an art mural on a wall to be built at the new garden area and a school sign for the front of the school.

Finances

The school accounts were finalised and certified for the 2020-2021 school year. The CLAR grant for outdoor work and an astro turf was applied for with Bridge Celtic but this was not successful this year. Fundraising: 2 clothes collections were held. More fundraising ideas will need to take place in the next school year for our outdoor spaces.

Attendance

The school's attendance figures still continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents were reminded to inform the school in writing of the reason for their child's absences. These are reported to the NEWB.

ICT

The school receives funding from the Department to upgrade and maintain our ICT. Funds were spent on apps for our i-Pads, online programmes, technical maintenance and our school website. Internet safety talks were given by Barnados and Ger Brick to pupils, teachers and parents.

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Parental Communication

Communication with parents was through email and textparent. The parent teacher meetings were held by phonecall over two days in January

Green Schools

The Green Schools Committee organised a number of events for the Travel and Transport theme. They undertook a travel survey. WOW (Walk on Wednesdays) took place over a number of weeks and was very successful. A Springclean Day was held on May. A fun cycle was held in June 2022.

As this is a 2 year programme, there will be more ideas to add to the plan for next year.

Work Experience

The school welcomed the following past pupils for their transition year work experience-Dylan Howard, Daniel Spaight, Ellie Hession, Seán McMahon and Cathal Howard. Dionne Ryan completed her teaching practice in 3rd & 4th class in the second term.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

5th & 6th classes took part in this programme to create a business idea. The chosen pitch was Bridgetown NS branded sports gear. They held a successful coffee morning and worked hard to get this project to fruition. The new clothes items will form part of our school uniform next year.

School Opening & Closing Times

The school now opens at 9.20am to receive pupils and finishes at 2pm for infants and 3pm for all other classes.

Sports

Active Flag surveys were completed by pupils, parents and staff. Badminton training was offered to teachers.

Swimming Lessons took place in January and February for pupils from 3rd-5th classes.

Past pupils from the victorious Smith O'Brien's Intermediate Team visited the school.

Primary Game: Seán Ryan and Caitlin Hayes represented the school at these trials.

The schools Camogie and Hurling Teams

The Girls Basketball team got to the final of the Marion Keane competition.

Community Links

The school was not used by the community groups due to covid restrictions in the early part of the school year. Bridge Celtic soccer club used the field for underage training and summer camps. Since restrictions lifted, Nicole Sweeney School of Dance has recommenced her classes every Tuesday. Other groups that use the school for meetings and events include Bridgetown Show Society, Bridgetown I.C.A. and the Apostolic Society. The school raised awareness among community groups about the issue of dog fouling in the village. The school joined with the community in a springclean of the village. The school has strong links with Bridge Celtic soccer club and the Board commended the works undertaken by the club on the playing pitch surface and surrounding areas.

Events

Competition and event participation was curtailed due to the pandemic but resumed once restrictions lifted. Goal Jersey Day, Christmas Jumper Day and the Shoebox Appeal were our charity events this year. Pupils performed and recorded their Christmas songs.

Pupils performed for each other at an outdoor event for Seachtain na Gaeilge

School Tours: Infants went to Stonehall pet farm; 1st-4th went to Kilfinane Outdoor centre; 5th & 6th went to UL Activity Centre
School Sports Day: an ice cream van brought treats after our annual sports day

Bridgetown NS History Project

The pupils are gathering information on our school's history. It is hoped to create a book of our school's history in the coming year.

Condolences

The Board of Management conveys its condolences to those of our school community whom we lost during the year. We remember Charlotte Ryan, Donna Kavanagh, Jack Tuohy and Joe O'Grady among others. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

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 Wednesday 31st August 2022.