



Board of Management Annual Report 2023/24

St. Enda's National School, Ballycanew

Roll Number: 15420G



## **Board of Management 2023/24**

The BOM of management commenced a new term in December 2023. The new BOM is composed of the following members:

Chairperson: Celestine Swords

Patron's Nominee: Fr. Tomás Kehoe

Secretary (Principal): Séamus Dempsey

Teachers' Nominee: Mary Kirwan Doyle

Parents' Nominee: Fiona Maguire, Bernard Concannon

Community Rep: Peter Roche, Mary Carroll

The new BOM met on 5 occasions: 11/1, 7/2, 15/5, 18/6, 18/7

Our past BOM met twice during this school year, on the 10/10, 30/11.

A sincere thanks to our former BOM members, Ann Maguire, Sharon Roche, Eugen Hogan, who's service to the school community had a strong influence on the positive developments of the school in the last 4 years.

## **School Ethos**

We are an inclusive Catholic school, in the Diocese of Ferns. In co-operation with the clergy and parents, Catholic children were prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.

Alongside this, respect, care and generosity which are central to our daily school lives, was promoted throughout the school year.

## **Child Protection**

The school's Designated Liaison Person is the school Principal Séamus Dempsey. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Deputy Principal Mary Kirwan Doyle. They are legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to TUSLA. At

each Board meeting, the Principal presents the Board with the Principal's Oversight Report.

## **Croke Park Hours-Under the Haddington Road Agreement**

Each school is obliged to spend 36 hours in after school planning and preparation in the school year. The staff have completed and exceeded the required hours for 2023-2024 in order to update plans and embed new initiatives.

## **Improvements to the grounds and building**

Under the leadership of Ms. Donna Hayden, the students council fundraised to improve the school environment. With generous support from the Parents Association, climbing walls, climbing arch, balance beams and a new wooden playhouse were installed on our playgrounds. The BOM have also started exploring an application for funding for an astro turf play area to the front of the school.

The BOM were successful in their application for funding to upgrade the heating system in the ASD building. The appointed engineer is seeking tenders at the time of issuing of this annual report.

## **Policy Development**

The following policies were ratified by the BOM since September 2018

- Child Protection Safety Statement
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Updated Uniform Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Complaints/Grievances Procedure
- DEIS Plan ratified – Attendance, Retention, Numeracy, Literacy, Educational Transitions, Partnership with Parents and Others

## **Human Resources**

Ms. Sharon McGlynn was awarded a CID (Contract of indefinite duration) at the end of the 2023/24 school year. During the year an ongoing appeal for an enhanced SET allocation was successful, and Ms. Catriona Murphy filled the new permanent post created as a result of the process.

The school appointed an AP1 for the first time in its history, with Ms. Donna Hayden appointed following the recruitment process. Ms. Pamela Murphy was appointed to the vacant AP2 that Ms. Hayden vacated following her appointment to AP1. Due to an increased allocation of AP2 posts for the school, Ms. Catriona Murphy was appointed to the AP2 effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

## **Management of Pupils**

The BOM are familiar with the school's code of Behaviour/Anti-bullying policies (which were reviewed). All new entrants' parents must sign up to both codes before being enrolled in the school. St. Enda's National School encourages good attendance, and new approaches and initiatives were identified as part of our DEIS planning.

Our attendance rate this year was 90.4%. This showed a 1.4% increase on the previous year, but attendance levels have still not returned to pre-pandemic levels, although it matches the attendance of 2017/18. Our projected enrolment for September 1st 2024 is 228 pupils.

New playground layouts and activities were put in place with huge leadership shown by our Playground Leaders in making the system a great success.

## **School Building**

A number of minor works were carried out on the school throughout the year including repairs to plumbing, roofing, and repainting of some

areas within the school building. New storage for curricular resources was purchased and installed during the school year. A leak in the roof of the ASD building will require work over the summer, including plastering of areas in the GP room.

## **Curricular Resources**

Over the course of the year a number of curricular resources were purchased. A number of literacy and numeracy resources were also acquired over the course of the year for use throughout the school. With ICT funding received from the Department of Education, the school expanded on the ICT equipment in the school, including a mobile interactive whiteboard.

Significant financial resources were also deployed to support the further implementation of Guided Reading throughout the school as well as the restocking of Art & Crafts supplies.

## **Health and Safety**

Parents are requested to sign pupils out if leaving school before dismissal time. First aid kits were replenished at numerous times throughout the year and all staff received first aid training in term 1. Two members of staff were also trained as first responders. Fire drills are carried out under the supervision of the relevant assistant principal. Staff supervise the playground before school each morning for ten minutes to ensure the safe assembly of children on the school playground. Staff also provide supervision at dismissal time to ensure safe exit and collection of all pupils from the school grounds.

## **Outside Tutors**

GAA (Wexford GAA) coaching took place during the school year. The FAI also visited the school, and Yoga took place as part of the final term. All coaches/facilitators had Garda vetting and were

supervised by teachers also. Music Generation, led by our MG teacher Karen Dunbar, played a central role in our school again this year. The highlight of which was participating in a concert in Wexford Park in term 3. The school, under the guidance of Ms. Mary Kirwan Doyle and Ms. Catriona Murphy, engaged in the Creative Schools Program this year. Dance classes, visits to art exhibitions, animation classes, clay, painting and other activities were enjoyed by the students. This program was a great success and a hugely enjoyable element of the school year.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

- Standardised tests were used to monitor pupil progress in English and Maths in May. This information and school performance generally was relayed to parents through the end of year school report which was posted mid-June.
- The information gathered will also be used inform progress in Literacy, Numeracy and where to target support for next year.
- Formal Parent teacher meetings were held in November.
- A new phonics assessment was piloted in Junior Infants, and found to be of great use by the staff.

### **Support for Pupils**

The Principal and relevant teachers with Educational Psychologist regular to prioritise candidates for assessment/observation. Miss Helen Spruhan is our NEPS Psychologist and a strong and positive professional relationship exists between the school community and Ms. Spruhan.

Regular reviews of pupils with School Support or School Support Plus plans took place between all relevant teachers.

The Principal and 6th class teacher met with representatives from local Secondary schools to ensure ease of transition of 6th class pupils to second level.

Over the duration of the year consultation was sought with relevant professionals in relation to particular students and their educational/social needs. Play therapists, Occupational Therapists and Educational Psychologists were amongst the professionals consulted (without compromising pupil identity or confidentiality) over the course of the year. The school also facilitated visits of outside professionals where required.

The school availed of NCSE support and OIDE support this year. Staff worked collaboratively with these external bodies to enhance provision to students in our care.

Primary Language Curriculum and Primary Maths Curriculum training took place in the school this year also.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our school community continues to strive to offer a variety of opportunities to our pupils outside of the classroom. During this year, a strong link was nurtured with the local GAA club, St. Patrick's. Our school fielded teams in boys and girls football, hurling, soccer and athletics.

The BOM also facilitated a number of after school programmes on the school premises such as Coding, Lego Club and Claymazing.

A new range of after school activities were introduced this year lead by staff. These included Quiz Club, Coding/STEM, Tin Whistle, and Art.

The school participated in the Scór na nÓg competition this year, with pupils

demonstrating their talents wonderfully at the regional show in Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey.

### **Parents Association**

The BOM would like to thank the Parents Association for all the time and dedication they give to the school. The fun and enjoyment they bring to the school through organised events both inside and outside of the school day greatly helps to nurture the positive, warm atmosphere the school has,.