

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT END OF YEAR REPORT 2019/2020

OVERVIEW

Scoil Bhríde is a large co-educational school with 688 pupils currently on roll, 41 teachers, 15 SNAs and 2 ancillary staff, and includes three A.S.D. units.

Mission Statement

Scoil Bhríde N.S is a co-educational Catholic, primary school, which strives to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed.

While Scoil Bhríde is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions.

Scoil Bhríde will strive to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of teachers through staff development programmes.

Scoil Bhríde will encourage the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in Scoil Bhríde Parent's Association.

Scoil Bhríde will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible.

Scoil Bhríde will promote gender equity amongst the staff and pupils.

Déanfaímid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt.

The school motto is:

'Ar Aghaidh Linn le Chéile'
'On we go together'

Board of Management Members 2019/2020

January 2020 - June 2020

Howard Berney – Chairperson

Anne Flanagan - Principal

Siobhán Tutty Bardon - Patron's Nominee

Ger Breen - Community Representative and Treasurer

Martin Murphy - Community Representative

Carol Griffith - Parent's Representative

Terry Donnelly - Parent's Representative

Mary Tomlinson - Teacher's Representative and recording secretary

The previous Board of Management met on the 15/10/19 and 26/11/19

A new Board of Management was elected in November and met on 21/01/20, 02/03/20, 20/04/20 (virtual meeting), 29/06/20 and 10/08/20 in the current school year.

The following are examples of some of the activities and initiatives that have taken place within the Scoil Bhríde school community from September 2019 - August 2020.

INITIATIVES

- Food Dudes Programme implemented throughout the school
- Clothes Recycling Event held on November 12th – over €600 raised
- Wellbeing/Friendship Week – November 19th – 22nd
- 5th Classes visited Glendalough
- 6th classes visited Castlemartin
- Active Schools Committee
- Green Schools Committee – 6th Green Flag achieved for ‘Global Citizenship: Litter and Waste’ – including a visit from Dara Weir from Kildare County Council
- Drumming Workshop
- Hallowe’en dress-up day and Witches’ Walk
- Sports equipment donated by E.M.S. photocopiers
- Breast Cancer Awareness presentation sponsored by I.N.T.O. on 20th November
- Parent Teacher Meetings were held during the week of the 13th November
- Christmas Fair December 1st
- Christmas Concerts (Junior Infants – 1st Class)
- New server installed
- Artist of the Month initiative
- Credit Union Competition - senior pupil won at Chapter Level and progressed further
- 5th class students participated in “ Science Culture Ireland” in Newbridge on Sat 16th November
- Science Week Sustained Support from the P.D.S.T. for Digital Learning – one visit received on 3rd February 2020 (Internet Safety) – further support to be given in 2020/2021 school year
- Junior Infants to 2nd classes practised early coding using our new Beebots and Bluebots
- 6th Class children took part in Science Blast – all preparation undertaken but did not attend the fair due to Covid-19 concerns (March 2020)
- 3rd Class participated in the Teacher Artist Partnership Programme
- Peace Proms Concert with Choir February 2nd
- Credit Union Quiz – both teams Junior/Senior came in 2nd place (3rd February 2020)
- Children participated in School Chess Competition and won silver and bronze
- Hosted inter-schools Chess Tournament (11th February 2020)
- Gordon Bond visited 5th classes on living & working in the Blaskets on 25th February 2020
- 4th classes guitar lessons and concert (25th February 2020)
- Lego – children from Junior Infants to 2nd Class enjoyed Lego construction on Fridays
- Coicís na Gaeilge celebrated throughout the school
- Aladdin Connect adopted as an enhanced home/school communication tool during school closure and in line with our Digital Learning Plan
- “Covid Creativity Week” competition
- Virtual School Tour Week celebrated in June 2020
- Virtual Sports Day/Week – June 2020
- 6th Class Graduation/Farewell – June 23rd – staggered collection of goodie bag and farewell with teacher

Sporting and Extra- Curricular Events

- Swimming in Naas & Curragh pools
- All classes took part in walking/running on the track each day
- Boys and girls U/11 Football Leagues – both teams made it to semi-finals.
- Boys & girls Soccer Leagues – Girls reached the semi- finals
- Hurling Leagues
- Girls Camogie Blitz
- Boys and girls Futsal Soccer Leagues – 4th class
- 2 Winter Football Leagues held for 3rd and 4th classes & 5th & 6th class boys on all-weather pitch
- Boys and Girls (Snr) participated in Basketball Leagues
- Gymnastic classes (Junior Infants – 3rd Class)
- Lunch time – indoor hurling leagues for 3rd/4th/5th & 6th classes
- Basketball Leagues and football Leagues
- Cross Country selections and competition
- Paul Treacy (Leinster Council) conducted tag rugby coaching with 5th classes
- Dave O’Neill conducted G.A.A. coaching with Junior and Senior Infants
- Gymnastics extended to 3rd classes
- 17/2/20 – Boys’ Basketball Blitz
- 18/2/20 – Girls’ Basketball Blitz

Be Active Programme

- Be Active Programme after school for 2nd classes from 21st Jan for 8 weeks with approximately 60 attending – facilitated by volunteers from the school staff

Religious Ceremonies

- School Mass and farewell to Ms Murphy on her retirement – September 2019
- Confirmation Enrolment Mass November 10th 2019
- Enrolment Mass for First Communion November 24th
- Carol Service
- Catholic Schools Week – 27th – 31st January
- Grandparents day with 2nd classes 30th January 2020
- St Brigid’s Day- Crosses made by children and 6th class went to mass in church
- Ashes distributed for Ash Wednesday
- 6th Class Retreat in Mount St Anne’s (19th February 2020)
- Ceremony of Light – 6th classes (12th February 2020)
- Confirmation (March 10th)
- First Penance and First Holy Communion deferred due to Covid-19

Fire Safety

Fire Drill was held in term 1 only (8th October 2019) due to school closure (Covid-19).

The Fire alarm was serviced quarterly and fire extinguishers were serviced on 7th November 2019.

Improvements/Additions to School Facilities

- New External doors with keypads installed in junior end of school
- New laptops purchased to upgrade out of date units

- New interactive whiteboards installed
- Upgraded to Aladdin Connect to assist with distance learning and enhance home/school communication
- New playground with soft play surfaces and play equipment for Sonas classes installed
- Signs put up around grounds outlining rules for track use etc.
- Railing installed in Sonas playground
- New domelights installed in Kingfisher
- Toilet/sink area installed in classroom Shamrock (old computer room)
- New hall, Sonas hall, senior hall, entrance hall, staffroom and external walls painted
- Outdoor classroom moved to new location beside the pitch
- CCTV recorder replaced/upgraded in main office
- Repairs undertaken to basketball court/poles
- New furniture purchased for extra numbers and to account for social distancing in September 2020

Parent's Association

- New Parents Association Elected – Valerie Ryan as Chairperson
- Parents Association A.G.M. held on 7th November 2020
- Christmas Fair 1st December 2020
- Paired Reading Programme (with Junior and Senior Infants) started March 23rd
- Tea/coffee provided on the day of Confirmation
- Coffee morning for parents held on March 11th
- Graduation hoodies organised for the 6th class children
- Parents' Association presented cheque for €10,000 – proceeds of year's fundraising.

The Board of Management recognises and appreciates the outstanding hard work and dedication of the Parent's Association.

Courses Attended

- Grow in Love in-service for 6th class teachers 23rd September 2019
- New Deputy Designated Liaison Person attended Child Protection Training on 25th September 2019.
- Promethean Training on new boards for all staff on 15th October 2019
- Staff Curriculum day November 18th - Implementation on New Language Curriculum and School Self Evaluation
- S.N.A.s received training from Wendy Donoghue (Saplings) on crisis behaviour prevention strategies
- Staff training provided on the use of icloud on January 13th (Microsoft)
- Staff attended Badminton training (11/02/20) & received racquets, nets & shuttlecocks
- Staff attended a presentation from Kildare Partnership in the Keadeen Hotel on 26th February 2020
- Webinars for Primary Language Curriculum postponed due to school closure (Covid-19)
- Staff attended online training on Seesaw
- Staff received training in the use of Aladdin Connect for distance learning

Policies and School Plans Reviewed and Ratified

- Child Protection
 - Risk Assessment
 - Child Safeguarding Statement
- Statement of Strategy for School Attendance Policy
- Planning and Procedures for E.P.V Days
- Droichead Induction Policy
- New Admission's Policy
- Policy following Enrolment to Sonas
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Policy on Home Use of Assistive Technology
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Homework Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- The school's Critical Incident Management Policy was also reviewed
- School Self Evaluation Report (Digital Learning Framework)
- Digital Learning Plan
- New Plean Scoile for English ratified

Board of Management Obligations

The Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde has met its obligations in respect of

- a) Child Protection/Safe guarding children
- b) Anti-bullying procedures
- c) Annual Budget is approved by the Board of Management and accounts are presented and reviewed by the Board at each meeting

The Board of Management has reviewed

- a) Pupil Attendance

No Standardised Testing completed this school year due to Covid-19 School Closure

The School accounts have been audited by Smyth & Co. The Village Sq, Tallaght in line with DES guidelines.

Conclusion

The Board of Management wishes to acknowledge the commitment of staff, the support of the parents/guardians and the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils who work together to make Scoil Bhríde a centre of excellence in Catholic primary education. The Board wishes to commend the staff, parents and pupils of Scoil Bhríde for their exceptional efforts during this unusual school year, in which schools throughout the country closed in March 2020 and the pupils engaged in distance learning until the end of the academic year.