

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT END OF YEAR REPORT 2020/2021

OVERVIEW

Scoil Bhríde is a large co-educational school with 655 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 2020/2021

September 2020 - June 2021

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 Board of Management met on 06/10/20, 02/12/20, 09/02/21 (virtual meeting), 23/03/21 (virtual meeting) and 01/06/21.

The following are examples of some of the activities and initiatives that have taken place within the Scoil Bhríde school community from September 2020 - August 2021.

Initiatives

- Secured funding from S.A.P. through their Corporate Social Responsibility Programme to encourage STEM and digital technology in Scoil Bhríde
- Commemoration of the centenary of Bloody Sunday – various activities held throughout the school including a G.A.A. jersey day
- Stay Safe Programme and R.S.E. Programme undertaken by all classes
- Interview on Zoom with Dr. Teresa Lambe from Oxford, a former pupil, who spoke to classes from 3rd to 6th (Monday November 30th). Teresa was interviewed by two pupils from 5th class, raising awareness of Science as a career.
- A number of classes sponsored animals in Dublin Zoo and a parent who works in the Zoo spoke on Zoom to the children.
- The Primary Development Support Service (P.D.S.T.) engaged with teachers on the teaching of Irish and the new Curriculum.
- Seesaw adopted as online learning platform and all staff received training
- Whole school virtually attended the Helix Christmas Pantomime, 'The Sword in the Stone'.
- 4th, 5th and 6th classes watched a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Siamsa Tíre.
- Wellbeing/Friendship Week was celebrated in November.
- Parent Teacher Meetings were conducted by phone during November.
- 6 of the senior classes took part in Microsoft's 'Hour of Code'.
- Staff and children contributed to a recording of poetry, storytelling, dance and song for the residents of Curragh Lawns Nursing Home.
- Christmas Jumper Day held as a fundraiser 21st / 22nd December.
- 6th Class Sports Day held on 01/06/21.
- Pitch & Putt organised for 2 days in June for each of the three 6th classes.
- C.P.C. entrance exams held in June – facilitated by the school.
- 6th Class Graduation Mass held on Tuesday June 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Parents watched on the parish webcam.
- School based Graduation ceremonies held for each 6th class
- 5th and 6th classes visited Old Kilcullen
- Hallowe'en dress-up day and Witches' Walk
- Artist of the Month initiative continued throughout the year
- Gaeilgeoir na Míosa initiative to encourage the use of Gaeilge
- Credit Union Competition
- 3rd Class and 6th Class participated in the Teacher Artist Partnership Programme
- Weekly School Quiz via Zoom
- In Person Supplementary Programme for children with complex needs
- July Provision for Sonas classes held for 4 weeks
- Mainstream Summer Provision Programme held for 3 weeks

Sporting and Extra- Curricular Events

- Fun run organised to mark the opening of the school track
- All classes took part in walking/running on the track each at least twice weekly
- "Kilcullen K" and "Scoil Bhríde Mile" initiative promoting physical and mental wellbeing by running on the track daily for 4/6 weeks to enhance fitness
- Dave O'Neill facilitated G.A.A. coaching with 4th, 5th and 6th Classes

- Sports Days were held in June 2021 separately with each class grouping

Religious Ceremonies

- 2nd and 6th Classes 'attended' mass virtually each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. on the parish webcam
- 3 separate First Communions held over 3 Saturdays in September/October for the children from 2nd class who did not make Communion last year. Two masses held each day.
- Confirmation Enrolment ceremonies held separately for the three 6th Classes
- Fr. Harte held three separate Confirmation enrolment ceremonies for the three 6th classes to begin preparation for Confirmation.
- Fr. Harte also had four enrolment ceremonies for the four second classes in advance of preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion. 2nd and 6th classes will watch mass weekly at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and religious holydays.
- Catholic Schools Week celebrated
- St Brigid's Day- celebrated virtually
- Ashes distributed for Ash Wednesday
- Confirmation postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions
- First Penance and First Holy Communion deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions

Fire Safety

Fire Drill held each term with each class.

The Fire alarm was serviced quarterly and fire extinguishers also received their annual service.

Improvements/Additions to School Facilities

- New access control panels installed on three remaining external doors
- New laptops purchased to upgrade out of date units
- New storage units installed in Sonas 3
- Additional furniture purchased to account for Covid 19 protocols re distancing
- New bike shelter installed beside senior yard
- Wider path and gate installed at pedestrian gate to the front of the school
- Pedestrian gates at the back of the school repaired
- Vehicle gate to the front of the school repaired
- School track lined
- Additional signage put in place at entrances encouraging adults to wear masks and observe social distancing on school grounds
- New black and white photocopier installed upstairs to replace broken one
- Maintenance carried out to school pitch - vertidrain, spraying and fertilising
- Upstairs corridors and stairwells painted
- Downstairs corridor and one classroom painted
- All classroom floors and corridor upstairs treated with a sealant (undercoat and gloss)
- New Sensory Path installed along link corridor for children who need movement breaks
- New sign for 'Gairdín na Scoile' designed by children from 5th class put in place
- Application submitted for Safe Routes to School – to provide signage etc. to improve safety for children coming to school

Parent's Association

- The Parents Association's A.G.M was held on Zoom this year in November
- Meetings were held virtually
- Christmas Raffle – money collected via Aladdin. Raffle held in the school on December 16th.
- Graduation hoodies organised for the 6th class children
- Parents' Association presented cheque for €9,000 – 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

- Sustained School Support received from the PDST in Digital Technologies
- Staff member completed TEACCH Training – NCSE
- SNAs engaged in National Training Programme for SNAs (UCD/NCSE)
- Child Protection training for Board of Management
- All staff updated/completed Child Protection training
- Secretary and Deputy Principal completed First Aid Training
- Caretaker completed Hand-held Pesticide training course

School Inspections

Report issued by Inspector Margaret Dunning following her 'Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling' (S.S.P.S.) Inspection, which was carried out on April 27th. This comprised an inspection of Covid Protocols and a Level 1 Child Protection Inspection. Everything fully acceptable and no recommendations made.

The Inspector visited the school again during the Supplementary Summer Provision programme to assess the effectiveness of the new mainstream programme.

Covid-19

The 2020/2021 school year was another unusual year, with many changes and amendments to school procedures necessitated by ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

The school adopted and implemented the *Covid-19 Response Plan* issued by the Department of Education. A *Plan for Reopening Scoil Bhríde* was also developed and implemented. This included staggered drop of and collection times, split breaks and separate yard areas for each class. Supervision was increased, with Teachers and S.N.A.s monitoring gates, doors, corridors and classrooms each morning from 8:50 a.m. The children were kept in their class bubble throughout the day and pods were maintained within the classroom.

Hand sanitiser, soap and paper towel dispensers were installed in each classroom and throughout the school. New staffrooms were created to allow for physical distancing of staff at lunch times. Class layouts were changed to allow for maximum distancing between pods of children. The P.E. hall was repurposed to allow S.E.T. teachers to take groups of children for support. Two sick bays (isolation areas) were created for children who were unwell and awaiting collection. Masks, wipes and other essential P.P.E. was purchased to enhance hygiene and ensure the health and safety of our staff and children.

The cleaners were employed for additional cleaning hours each week and an additional cleaner was employed. A deep clean of the school was undertaken prior to staff and students returning in September 2020. One member of the teaching staff and one S.N.A. volunteered for the roles of Lead Worker Representative and Assistant Lead Worker Representative respectively.

Aladdin Connect and Seesaw were rolled out across the school to improve communication between home and school. Staff were trained on the use of both platforms. Staff communicated with parents via Aladdin and work was set for children on Seesaw during remote teaching and learning. Zoom was used in certain circumstances as a communication platform with children during school closures.

Policies and School Plans Reviewed and Ratified

- Child Protection
 - Risk Assessment
 - Child Safeguarding Statement
- Statement of Strategy for School Attendance Policy
- Plan for Re-opening Scoil Bhríde – new procedures for entry/exit and lunchtimes for the children and staff to account for Covid 19 requirements
- Covid 19 Response Plan and Risk Assessment
- Health and Safety Statement and Risk Assessment
- Intimate Care and Toileting Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Retention Schedule
- Data Privacy Statement for Pupils and Parents
- Remote Teaching and Learning Plan
- Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Anti-Cyberbullying Policy
- Substance Use Policy
- Job-sharing Policy for Teachers
- Job-sharing Policy for S.N.A.s

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
- b) Standardised Test Results

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 school year, in which schools throughout the country closed again in January 2021 and the pupils engaged in distance learning until March 2021.