

# **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT END OF YEAR REPORT 2021/2022**

## **OVERVIEW**

Scoil Bhríde is a large co-educational school with 643 pupils currently on roll, 41 teachers, 15 SNAs and 2 ancillary staff, and includes three A.S.D. classes.

### **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 2021/2022**

#### **September 2021 - June 2022**

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 05/10/21, 07/12/21, 15/02/22, 27/04/22 and 21/06/22.

The following are examples of some of the activities and initiatives that have taken place within the Scoil Bhríde school community from September 2021 - August 2022.

## Initiatives

### Sporting and Extra- Curricular Events

- Music, Art, Chess, Irish Dancing, and Gymnastics returned as private after school activities using the school facilities.
- Ukulele classes facilitated by Music Generation Kildare for 3<sup>rd</sup> class children took place weekly throughout the year.
- 7<sup>th</sup> October – Futsal Soccer 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October - Maths Week
- 18<sup>th</sup> October– Coffee Morning in aid of Curragh Hospice. Raised €840.
- 21<sup>st</sup> October – Cycle Safety Course for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes – facilitated by Garda Jon O’Brien
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Witches Walk
- The Student Council’s ‘Odd Socks and Crazy Locks Day’, a charity fundraiser, raised €1,170 for 2 organisations – Barretstown and ‘Children Helping Children’.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Teacher Meetings – held remotely
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November – Wellbeing/Friendship Week
- 17<sup>th</sup> November – school photographs by County Photographs
- Barnardos Online Safety Talk – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes
- 29<sup>th</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December “Lego We Do” – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes
- Daily - “Fyffe’s Fittest Schools” initiative
- Gaelic football Coaching 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes
- Gaelic football coaching for 2<sup>nd</sup>/ 3<sup>rd</sup> classes
- Cricket sessions for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> classes facilitated by Halverstown Cricket club
- Guitar lessons for 4<sup>th</sup> classes
- Black and white day 14/01/22 celebrating Kilcullen G.A.A. Leinster Final appearance
- Hearing and vision screening for junior and senior infants
- Vaccinations given to junior infants
- Charity Day was held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022. €1100 was donated to each of 3 charities - Irish Red Cross, UNICEF and Trócaire.
- Friends for Life programme facilitated in 4<sup>th</sup> classes for 10 weeks.
- A Lust for Life programme for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes.
- 6<sup>th</sup> class Entrance Exam for C.P.C. held online in our school hall
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - week long Food Dudes Programme
- 7/3/22 - Engineers Week
- 8/3/22 - 4<sup>th</sup> class guitar concerts
- 11/3/22 – Fyffes Banana Fitness for teachers – won spot prize of drinking bottles for children and boxes of bananas – 5<sup>th</sup> fittest school in Ireland at that time.
- 24/3/22 boys football match v Ballymany
- 24/3/22 girls camogie match v Kildare Town
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April – C.S.L. Study U.C.D. – 5<sup>th</sup> classes
- 7<sup>th</sup> April Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Competition
  - Girls’ winners – gold
  - Boys’ 3<sup>rd</sup> – bronze
- 27<sup>th</sup> April Cricket Blitz – 5<sup>th</sup> Classes
- 28<sup>th</sup> April – girls’ football blitz – Ballymany
- 28<sup>th</sup> April – boys’ football blitz - home
- R.S.E. Week was 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May – Accord visited 6<sup>th</sup> classes
- Archbishop’s House held an Ethos and Management evening for B.O.M. members in the main hall on May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Classes Annual Cake Sale raised €1520 for 2 charities - Laura Lynn and Kilcullen Tidy Towns each received €760.00

- 27<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> class Cricket Blitz in Halverstown
- 28<sup>th</sup> April - Football Blitz – Ballymany – Girls / Home – Boys
- 6<sup>th</sup> May – Boys’ Football Blitz
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May - Book Week and Book Fair – authors Seosamh Ó’Maolalaí & Megan Wynn visited
- 13<sup>th</sup> May - Picker Pals Visit – 2<sup>nd</sup> classes
- 20<sup>th</sup> May - Hurling Blitz
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Camogie Blitz
- 24<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> class walk to Old Kilcullen
- 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May – three 5<sup>th</sup> classes visited Glendalough Education Centre
- 27<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> class visit to Castlemartin Estate
- 30<sup>th</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes visited the river with Jan Baars for river study
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class Cake Sale
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Biodiversity Day
- Week of June 20<sup>th</sup> – Active Schools Week (all classes involved in a very enjoyable week)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> class Cricket Blitz – Pitch ‘n’ putt for 6<sup>th</sup> class, including Sports Day.
- All classes went on school tour (variety of locations/activities)
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation
- Summer Camp – July 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Chess Course run by Kildare Education Centre - July 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Soccer Camp – July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>
- Star Camp – August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

### Religious Ceremonies

- Confirmation masses were held in the Parish Church on 3 evenings in October for the current 1<sup>st</sup> years (last year’s 6<sup>th</sup> classes).
- First Penance – held over 2 days in school; 2 ceremonies were held each day.
- First Holy Communion for last year’s 2<sup>nd</sup> classes were held in October in the Parish Church – 2 classes each day.
- Enrolment Ceremonies held in Church for this year’s four 6<sup>th</sup> classes (one class per day) - live streamed for parents
- Enrolment Ceremonies for this year’s three First Communion classes
- Catholic Schools Week celebrated
- St Brigid’s Day celebrations
- 22/3/22– First Penance (held in school)
- 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April – Confirmation – 6<sup>th</sup> classes
- 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May – First Holy Communions
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### Fire Safety

Fire Drill held each term with each class and whole school fire drill held in the final term. The Fire alarm was serviced quarterly and fire extinguishers also received their annual service. The lift was serviced by TK elevators.

### Improvements/Additions to School Facilities

- School pitch spiked, fertilised and underwent weed control

- CO<sub>2</sub> monitor for each classroom purchased and installed to monitor carbon dioxide levels and encourage good ventilation.
- Rooflight in S.E.T. room in junior end replaced, again to improve ventilation.
- New iPads, laptops, active panels and new desktop purchased.
- Lego Essentials sets purchased with funds received from S.A.P. to encourage coding and programming skills with children in 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> classes.
- Trees topped along perimeter of school near complex.
- New Maths resources purchased
- New Aistear resources purchased for use with Junior/Senior Infants
- Classrooms in new building painted
- Prefab painted and floors polished and re-sealed
- Floors in new building classrooms polished and re-sealed
- Ceiling in Sonas hall repaired

#### Parent's Association

- The Parents Association's A.G.M was held remotely on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Meetings were held virtually throughout the year.
- Following a P.A. meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Laura Begley was elected as Chairperson and Niamh Cashman as Secretary for the coming year.
- Christmas Raffle – money collected via Aladdin. Raffle held in the school on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Pantomime (viewed by all classes online) and Christmas Jumper Days were held as fundraisers in December.
- Graduation hoodies organised for the 6<sup>th</sup> class children
- Parents' Association presented cheque for €9,000 – proceeds of year's fundraising

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

#### Courses Attended

- Sustained School Support received from the P.D.S.T. in the new Primary Language Curriculum. Carmel Linehan worked with the staff and visited the school throughout the year to embed the Primary Language Curriculum.
- Staff engaged with three webinars during the year (webinars 3, 4 and 5 of the Primary Language Curriculum).
  - Half day closure to engage with Webinar 3 joined with half day closure for Sustained School Support session on Monday resulting in a full day closure on 27/09/21 (coincided with closure of secondary school).
  - Webinar 4 was held on 16/03/22 (half day closure).
  - Final webinar for this school year on the Primary Language Curriculum was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June (half day closure).
- Lorna Walsh attended the I-TAP-PD Erasmus Training Programme
- Staff received school support in Maths from Luke Sweeney of the P.D.S.T.
- Teacher and two S.N.A.s trained on the use of LÁMH.
- Staff trained on the use of T.D. Snap App for use with children with communication difficulties.
- Teacher trained on the use of Numicon.
- Staff members attended Wellbeing Seminar in Kildare Education Centre on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Staff member attended N.I.P.T. Droichead facilitator training.

#### July Provision 2022 & Mainstream Summer Programme

July Provision in Sonas held for 4 weeks.

Mainstream Summer Programme - 3 classes for 3 weeks.

### **Covid-19**

The 2021/2022 school year was another unusual year, with many changes and amendments to school procedures necessitated by ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

The school continued to adopt and implement the *Covid-19 Response Plan* issued by the Department of Education. The school had procedures in place to ensure the implementation of the Response Plan. This included staggered drop of and collection times, split breaks and separate yard areas for each class. Morning supervision was in place 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 until notified by the Department of Education later in the school year that bubbles/pods could mix.

Hand sanitiser, soap and paper towel dispensers were supplied in each classroom and throughout the school. A number of staffrooms were in operation to allow for physical distancing of staff at lunch times. Two sick bays (isolation areas) were in operation 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 Department of Education issued a directive in relation to mask wearing for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class children, and children's masks were purchased for this purpose. Carbon dioxide monitors were installed in each classroom to encourage good ventilation practices. Aladdin Connect and Seesaw were used to facilitate communication between home and school.

The cleaners were employed for additional cleaning hours each week. A deep clean of the school was undertaken prior to staff and students returning in September 2021. 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.

### **Policies and School Plans Reviewed and Ratified**

- Child Protection
  - Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- End of Year Report for the school year 2020/2021
- Statement of Strategy for School Attendance Policy
- Covid 19 Response Plan and Risk Assessment
- Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Policy on the Administration of Medicines
- Supervision Policy
- Yard Duty Supervision Policy
- C.P.D. Guidelines
- E.P.V. Day Policy
- Flight Risk Policy
- Hire and Use of School Premises Policy
- Plean Scoile for Science
- Plean Scoile for History
- Plean Scoile for Geography

#### **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 Square, 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.