

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Management

2019-2023

Chairperson:

Rev. Canon Adrienne Galligan

Principal:

Joyce Perdue

Treasurer & Community Nominee

Liz O'Leary

Patron's Nominee

Christopher Sykes

Parents' Nominee

Dervla Cole

Parents' Nominee

David Richardson

Teachers' Nominee

Eoin Leonard

Community Nominee

Ramon Gillis

The Board of Management met on five occasions during the year.

The board considered a wide variety of subjects throughout the year including building maintenance (primarily the playground refurbishment), child protection, staffing, attendance statistics, policy review, enrolment and health and safety.

The board is committed to providing oversight in ensuring good governance in accordance with DES direction and the Charities Regulator.

The current board will end its term of office this year and a new board will be appointed next term. This is usually finalised by November/December.



Introduction

This report is published by the Board of Management of Rathfarnham Parish National School to give an overview of the work undertaken during the 2022-2023 school year.

Following the challenges posed by Covid-19 during the past few school years, it is heartening that the school was able to resume its usual work and the year has been packed with a wide variety of activities and opportunities for the children. The Board welcomes the return to normality and commends the staff for continuing to address the Covid fallout in supporting children who have lost out in recent years.





Enrolment

In line with the Admissions to Schools Act 2018, the school has an Admissions Policy which is applied fairly. Enrolment for Junior Infants 2023 took place in November 2022. All the places are now filled and there is a waiting list.

The Admissions Policy, Admissions Notice and Enrolment Application forms are available on the school website.

Attendance

The school has always had a high rate of daily attendance (usually >95%). This past year has been no different and is a testament to the positivity that children feel coming to school.

There are 227 children currently enrolled in the school.

Child Protection

The **Designated Liaison Person** for Child Protection (DLP) is Joyce Perdue.

The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person** (DDLPL) is Eoin Leonard.

School Staff

We are extremely fortunate and blessed to have such a dedicated and committed staff led by Mrs. Perdue. There is a great sense of collaboration and teamwork amongst all staff members and this in turn provides the children with the best school experience possible.

SCHOOL STAFF - 2022-2023

Principal	Joyce Perdue
Deputy Principal	
& Team Teacher:	Eoin Leonard
Rang 6	Suzanne Beardsley
Rang 5	Louise Hendy
Rang 4	Zoe Smart
Rang 3	Amy Buttimer
Rang 2	Heather O'Connor
Rang 1	Aoife Farrell
Senior Infants	Laura Kenny
Junior Infants	Alana Storey
SET and Assistant Principal (AP2)	Tanya Correll (<i>jobshare</i>)
SET and Assistant Principal (AP2)	Debbie Murphy (<i>jobshare</i>)
SET	Sofie Walshe/Ailbhe Coulter (<i>substitutes</i>)
SET	Linda Scannell and Deirdre Connolly (<i>jobshare</i>)
SET	Julie Hamilton
EAL (English as an Additional Language)	Zoë Hill
Additional Needs Assistants	
	Anne Lawlor, Tara Byrne, Laura Ready, Gretchen Dawson
Classroom Assistant	Sandra Byrne
Secretary	Nikki Squire
Caretaker	John Stapleton

The board is very grateful to Sofie Walshe and Ailbhe Coulter for stepping into an SET role and providing substitute cover this year. While staffing has been a difficulty for most schools, we are very appreciative that we have been a base school for a supply panel and also to have had great support from Sofie and Ailbhe.

Congratulations to Eoin Leonard and his wife Catherine, who welcomed their first child, baby Cathal, at the end of May. We are sorry to be saying 'goodbye' to Sandra Byrne who is retiring after 18 years as our classroom assistant and to Amy Buttimer who completed her first year of teaching with us and who is off to teach abroad next year. We wish both Sandra and Amy all the best for the future.

Julie Hamilton, Zara Moloney and Lorraine Loftus will be taking career breaks next year and we welcome Beverley Maxwell and Robert Duff back to school in September following their career breaks.

6th Class

We say goodbye to twenty eight 6th class pupils this month. It's great that they were able to take part in the usual activities and 'rites of passage' in the last term, including a much anticipated three-day trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre.

As a class they have really grown in maturity, showing common sense and resilience. They were a great help with the Christmas Fair and also rose to the occasion for Active Week, helping run all the sporting activities with the younger classes. Their end of year play was memorable with some terrific performances. As a class they have been lively, kind and reliable. They will be missed.

They are:

Eoin Acres

Harry Cole

Naomi Fowler

Daniel Howard

Charlie Leonard

Ellie McEnroe

Jamie Pratt

Fergus Redmond

Cormac Shaw

Lucy Wilkinson

Jack Brady

Katy Cole

Hannah Glover

Adam Kilcullen

Finn Masterson

Laura Mooney

Rebecca Prior

Neidín Sargent

Faye Trench-Thornton

Grace Campbell

Heidi Farrell

Daisy Hall

Senan Kracen-Wallace

Chloe McCready

Harry Morrison

Isabelle Rafferty

Robyn Saunders

Adam Whelan



6th Class 2023

Substitute Supply Panel

Once again RPNS was the base school for Substitute Supply Panel. While we were sanctioned seven teaching posts for the panel we were only able to recruit three teachers due to the shortage of teachers. The three teachers covered absences in 21 schools (a total of more than 400 teaching posts) so they were kept very busy!

These teachers were:

Gavin Greene

Dóirín O'Sullivan

Ramiro Cachafeiro Danza.

The DES has decided that the current panel is too large so has split it into two smaller panels. We will continue to be a base school for one of these panels with four teaching posts.

School Finances

The Board of Management would like to thank parents for their continued support in the form of the voluntary contribution. Without this important funding we would not be in a position to provide the children with many of the extras they enjoy.

While the DES does not encourage schools to seek voluntary contribution, the capitation grant per child is currently only €183 per pupil per year. This is not enough to provide the level of facilities our children enjoy.

We are also extremely grateful to families who have made donations and completed the Revenue CHY3 form which applies to PAYE taxpayers. Under this scheme the school can claim tax refunds from Revenue which is an additional valuable source of income.

Assessment and Reporting

Individual end of year school reports are issued to all parents in June. The reports are based on four areas of children's progress and achievement:



Your child as a learner

Your child's social and personal development

Your child's learning across the curriculum

Your key role in supporting your child's learning

Reports are written based on the child's work throughout the year and builds on the information given to parents at the parent-teacher meetings in November and as needed throughout the year. The school carries out standardised tests and these are reported in the form of a standard score. Ranganna 3-6 also do class-based tests which help inform parents and teachers about each child's progress. Standardised test results are reported to the Department of Education and Skills in 2nd, 4th and 6th classes. In recent years the children took updated standardised tests which have been revised to reflect the updated norms in line with the improved literacy and numeracy standards across the whole country.

We are proud that our children perform above the national norms and our level of academic achievement remains high.

The 6th Class Report is in the form of an Education Passport which is passed onto the post primary schools to help the children's transition into secondary school.



Free Book Scheme

The Board welcomes the introduction of the free book scheme announced by the Minister and which will offer significant savings for parents.

Parents are reminded that the books remain the property of the school and children should treat their books with great care.

There will be no charge for books this year but parents will be asked for a contribution towards art materials, photocopying and software licences etc.

Playground

After many years of saving and fundraising the long awaited overhaul of the senior playground took place last October. This has been a terrific hit with all the children and the new surface means that there are less cuts and grazes! A huge thank you to the PTA for all their work in fundraising for this popular project.



Parent Teacher Association

The PTA is an important part of school life and the board would like to thank the committee and the staff reps for their continued support and energy.

The PTA helped with the Sponsored Walk as well as organising the popular raffle for the Christmas Fair.

PTA COMMITTEE



Chairperson:	Llerena Espinosa
Treasurer:	Daithí Thornton
Secretary:	Karen Ayton
Committee Members:	Shane Murphy Aideen Toner Ariane Gray Yvonne Bradford Fintan McGrogan
Teacher nominees	Debbie Murphy Heather O'Connor

Building Works

Some significant work is planned during the summer holidays. The old water tanks in the attic are corroding badly and need to be replaced. The electrics in the oldest part of the school and fire safety systems need to be upgraded too.

The Board applied to the DES for emergency funding to cover the cost of this important work and is pleased to announce that the full cost has been granted.

Activities

It was great that the usual school activities could go ahead in full this year and everything was back to normal.

The children enjoyed a broad range of events/activities during the year including:

- Weekly assemblies in the school hall with Canon Adrienne
- Chess lessons
- Hockey
- Swimming
- Christmas Fair
- Cycling Safety
- Nativity Plays
- Wellbeing days
- Santa Claus Visit
- Neurodiversity Awareness Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- GAA
- Sponsored Walk
- Active Week and Sports Days
- Brixx Lego Club
- Homework Club
- Plays in all classes
- 3 day trip for 6th Class
- Choir Concert
- 6th Class barbecue and graduation
- Focus on Wellbeing
- Infants to the Zoo
- Trips to Alive Outside
- Pyjama Day fundraiser



School Choir

The school choir is open to pupils from 3rd-6th class who enjoy singing and is run by Mrs. Perdue. The choir meets every Thursday morning before school for practice and sings at different events during the school year

This year there were 25 children in the choir across the 4 classes. During the year they have sung at assemblies, at the Christmas Lunch in the parish, at regular family services in the church and the Parish Organ Fund Concert.

They held an end of year concert where they were able to showcase some of the repertoire that they have covered as well as giving some choir members the chance to play instruments and sing - either alone or in groups.

The choir year culminated in a trip for choir members to Clara Lara Funpark. The parish helps with the cost of this trip as a thank you to the children who sing at parish events during the year. Great fun was had by all!



the choir in Clara Lara

Finally...

As we come to the end of another school year, the Board is pleased that the school continues to go from strength to strength. We have a close knit community, working together to encourage a sense of belonging, high educational standards and a happy, welcoming atmosphere where everyone is valued.

The Board wishes to acknowledge this sense of community and inclusion which is at the core of the school's characteristic spirit and thanks staff, parents and students who all play their part in promoting these important principles to uphold and support the school's ethos.