

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

## ANNUAL REPORT

**Board of Management**

2023 - 2027

**Chairperson:**

Rev. Canon Adrienne Galligan

**Principal:**

Joyce Perdue

**Treasurer & Parent Nominee**

Liz O'Leary

**Parents' Nominee**

David Richardson

**Patron's Nominee**

Christopher Sykes

**Teachers' Nominee**

Eoin Leonard

**Community Nominee**

Ramon Gillis

**Community Nominee**

Ross Shorten

In line with the requirements of the Education Act, a new Board of Management is elected every four years. The current board began its term of office in December 2023.

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

The new board met on four occasions since January and considered a wide variety of subjects throughout the year including building maintenance, child protection, staffing, attendance statistics, policy review, enrolment and health and safety.

**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 2023-2024 school year.

The past school year has flown by and the 'Covid Closures' are, thankfully, a dim memory. As we say goodbye to some families, and prepare to welcome new ones to our school community, it is a good time to pause and reflect on the past year and look forward to the next one.





## Enrolment

In line with the Admissions to Schools Act 2018, the school has an Admissions Policy which is applied fairly. Enrolment for Junior Infants 2024 took place in November 2023. 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 225 children currently enrolled in the school.

## Child Protection

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

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

## School Staff

We are extremely fortunate and blessed to have such a dedicated and committed staff. 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 2023-2024

**Principal:** Joyce Perdue

**Deputy Principal & Team Teacher:** Eoin Leonard

**Rang 6** Suzanne Beardsley

**Rang 5** Louise Hendy

**Rang 4** Laura Kenny

**Rang 3** Aoife Farrell

**Rang 2** Melanie Kee

**Rang 1** Debbie Murphy

**Senior Infants** Zoe Smart

**Junior Infants** Alana Storey

**SET** Beverley Maxwell & Tanya Correll (jobshare)

**SET** Deirdre Connolly & Linda Scannell (jobsharer)

**SET** Rob Duff

**SET** Heather O'Connor (until May) Sophie Ray

**EAL (English as an Additional Language)** Zoë Hill

### Additional Needs Assistants

Anne Lawlor, Tara Byrne, Laura Ready, Gretchen Dawson

**Classroom Assistant** Sharon Dodd

**Secretary** Nikki Squire

**Caretaker** John Stapleton

The board would like to congratulate Heather O'Connor and her husband Iain on the birth of their son, Xander, in May. While staffing continues to be an issue for schools, we are fortunate in being able to recruit great teachers to cover career breaks and jobshares next year. Melanie Kee will be teaching 5th Class, Sophie Ray will be in 3rd and Isobel Wallace will be covering our shared SEN post next year. Congratulations to Sophie Ray who has been awarded 'Graduate of the Year', a huge achievement covering all universities in the country. We are fortunate to have a teacher of Sophie's caliber joining on our staff. We also welcome Zara Moloney back from career break next year.

The board wishes Julie Hamilton, Aoife Farrell and Lorraine Loftus well as they take career breaks next year.

## 6th Class

We say goodbye to twenty nine 6th class pupils this month. They had a great year with lots of activities and fun, 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, engaged and reliable. They will be missed and we wish them well as they move on to secondary school.

They are:

Aidan Christle  
Andrew Cole  
Chloe Kane  
Emma Whelan  
Ewan Mulhall  
Josh Tilley  
Lucy Walsh  
Nico Ward Pratt  
Shane Ireland  
Tom Dillon

Alex Dodd  
Camilla Bicalho Dowling  
Edith Fionda-Doyle  
Emmet MacNaughton  
Hannah Bowers  
Katie Buckley  
Luke Sargent  
Rachel Cole  
Simone Kane  
Zach Murphy

Lexy Kyle  
Lottie Manley  
Elsie Kirwan  
Euan Sykes  
Jack Dwyer  
Lauren Birney  
Maisie Nolan  
Ruby Malone  
Theo Dunne



Rathfarnham Parish National School  
Class of 2024



## Substitute Supply Panel

Once again RPNS was the base school for a Substitute Supply Panel. While we were sanctioned four teaching posts for the panel, we were only able to recruit one teacher, Julie Davis, due to the shortage of teachers.

Julie has been kept very busy this year covering absences in the 12 schools on our panel.

## 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 approx. €200 *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.

## Free Book Scheme

The free book scheme announced last year offered parents a significant saving on the cost of school books and allowed the school to provide a certain amount of stationery as well. However, the grant has dropped by €15 per child this year and does not cover everything that the children will need. There will be no charge for books but parents will need to provide some stationery and there will be a charge for photocopying, art materials and software licences.

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

## 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.





## 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 committee and especially Sandra Glover and Claire Ongaro have been liaising with parents about the introduction of a Smartphone code and this will be further developed in September.



### PTA Committee

**Chairperson:** Sandra Glover

**Treasurer:** Daithí Thornton

**Secretary:** Fintan McGrogan

**Committee:** Ariane Gray  
Shane Murphy  
Yvonne Bradford  
Claire Ongaro  
Joy Edge

**Teacher nominees** Debbie Murphy  
Heather O'Connor

We are very grateful to parents who volunteer to help with different activities such as accompanying classes on school trips, helping with the Christmas Fair, Walks etc.

A special thanks goes to the parents who help with reading in the junior classes throughout the year. This makes a huge difference to the time that we can spend on hearing children read individually or in small groups.

## Whole School Evaluation (WSE)

In April the DES carried out an evaluation of the teaching of Maths in the school. Two DES inspectors spent two days visiting classes, meeting with staff and children and checking planning.

This co-incided with the introduction of the new Primary Maths Curriculum which will be implemented in full next year, with its more playful and hands-on approach.

The final report was excellent with the school being commended on the standard of teaching and learning. Teachers' practice was of a very high standard and the inspectors were very complimentary about the children's engagement, ability and behaviour. The were also impressed with the culture of collaboration within the teaching staff and the leadership team. The board was very please with the overall evaluation and congratulates the staff and children on a great result.

## School Self Evaluation (SSE)

Self evaluation remains at the core of the approach to teaching and learning in the school and this year the focus was on Science, while continuing in the areas of Assessment and Wellbeing.

## Green Schools

The school has a long involvement with the Green Schools Programme. This year the focus has been on Global Citizenship, litter and waste.

## Children's voice

In line with the new Primary Curriculum Framework, pupils are consulted on a wide range of issues. As well as the Green Schools Committee, there is also a Student Council which has two representatives from each class from 1st-6th Classes. The Student Council meets with Mrs. Perdue and Mr. Duff to bring forward issues and ideas from their classes. There is also a Wellbeing Committee which regularly introduces some ideas for good mental and physical health in Assembly.

## Student Teachers

RPNS has a long tradition of offering student teachers placements under the care of the class teachers. This year student teachers from DCU and Hibernia have been facilitated in their teaching placements.



## Assemblies

Our twice weekly assemblies are a big part of the life of the school.

At Assembly on Mondays we celebrate the week's birthdays. Friday's assembly is led by Canon Adrienne and we also give out 'Student of the Week Awards' as well as celebrating other successes.

During assembly we sing hymns and pray together and we have special school prayer - Paidir na Scoile . Thank you to Ms. Connolly who regularly provides the piano accompaniment in assembly.

## School Choir

The school choir had a great year and were busy! The choir meets every Thursday morning at 8.20 a.m. to rehearse and the repertoire ranges from music for church, modern pop music and choral pieces. This year the choir took part in the Peace Proms in the RDS which was a terrific event and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The choir also held Christmas and Summer Concerts where individual children got to show their talents.

The choir trip to Clara Lara was great fun!



## Activities

- Cycle Safety course (5th class)
- Diocesan Service in Christchurch Cathedral (6th class)
- Chess lessons
- Christmas Fair
- Christmas Concert
- Church services
- Grandparents' Day
- Nativity Plays (infants, 1st & 2nd class)
- Green Schools Week
- Homework Club
- Lego Brixx Club
- Carlingford trip (6th class)
- Cinderella Rockafella (3rd & 4th class play)
- Infant Induction meeting & new infants visit
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Active Week
- Gymnastics
- Golf Competitions
- Orienteering
- Visit from Dublin Fire Brigade
- Siopa Gaeilge
- School photographer
- Class trips
- Talent Show
- Choir Summer Concert
- Swimming
- Sports Days
- Neurodiversity Week
- Rainbow Walk
- 6th class Barbeque
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Alice in Wonderland (5th & 6th class play)
- End of Year Service

...and many more!



## Sports

Sport continues to be a very important part of school life in RPNS, even though we have limited space!

The PTA funded a course of **Gymnastics** lessons in Term 2 which all the classes thoroughly enjoyed



Max Correll, George Campbell, Matthew Gill and Jamie Mulhall have been representing the school in **golf** and competed in the Lionel Munn golf competition in St.Columba's College and did really well! Congratulations also to Max Correll who won a medal in the Irish Junior Open U9s Competition and to Matthew Gill and Jamie Mulhall who took part in the U11s competition.



Many children took part in a schools **Rock-Climbing** competition earlier in the year.

Well done to Joshua Blair who represented Ireland in the YCS in Southampton.

A big thank you to Barry Norman who ran some **rugby** workshops this year.

Many of the younger children take part in **Active Sports** as an after school activity.

The weekly **swimming** lessons continue to be very popular in Templeogue College pool.

Congratulations to Katie Buckley who represented the school in the Leinster Schools' Swimming Competition and won several medals.

**Hockey** continues in 3 Rock Rovers on Mondays. Congratulations to the girls' hockey team who won the Leinster Primary Schools Division 4 competition this year.

The children in the senior classes took part in the Leinster Schools' **Orienteering** competition and did very well. Congratulations to Mae Masterson



and Sarah-Jane Redmond who came 1st and Jake O'Byrne, Freddie Beardsley-Murphy who came 2nd.

## Scholarship

Congratulations to Andrew Cole who was awarded a scholarship into The High School in Rathgar.

## Raffle for Logan

The board would like to acknowledge the great support that the whole school community has given to Logan Grey, who needs to access medical treatment abroad and which is not funded by the HSE. A huge thanks to Ms.Storey and Ms. Kenny for organising the raffle which to date has raised more than €10k! Well done to everyone who sold tickets, donated prizes and supported the fundraising effort.



## New appointments

Following an open competition appointment process, the Board of Management Mr. Eoin Leonard was appointed as principal to succeed Mrs Joyce Perdue who is retiring this year. Eoin has been working in the school since 2014 and in recent years was promoted to the post of Deputy Principal. Eoin's appointment has been met with universal approval and the board looks forward to working with him in the coming years.

The board is also immensely grateful to Mrs. Perdue for the sterling leadership and commitment she has given to the school over the past nineteen years. She has also been involved in the broader educational landscape serving on the Diocesan Board of Education, NCCA Council, NCCA Schools' Forum, Centre for School Leadership Mentoring and a DES Advisory Group.

We wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

The vacancy left by Mr. Leonard's appointment has also been filled by open competition and Mr. Rob Duff has been appointed Deputy Principal. The board wishes him every joy in his new role.

In addition to the Principal and Deputy Principal, the school has an expanded In-School Management team with one Assistant Principal 1 and four Assistant Principal 2 posts. These are:

**Assistant Principal 1:** Beverley Maxwell

**Assistant Principal 2:** Tanya Correll,  
Debbie Murphy  
Laura Kenny  
Deirdre Connolly (acting for Lorraine Loftus)



## FINALLY...

The school has continued to go from strength to strength with a close knit community working together to encourage a sense of belonging, high educational standards and a happy and 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 culture. We thank the staff, parents and students who all play their part in promoting these important principles, which uphold and support the school's ethos.

*The new school year will start on Thursday 29th August at 8.20 a.m.*

*In the meantime, have a relaxing, safe and fun summer!*