

Annual Report of the Board of Management
Courtnacuddy National School
2019/20

The Board of Management of the school is pleased to publish the annual report for the 2019/20 school year. This report is issued in line with the requirements of the Education Act.

Members of the Board of Management

Chairperson: David Reck

Secretary: Colm Gallagher

Staff Representative: Catherine O'Brien

Parent's Representative: Peter Dunne & Gillian Doyle

Patron's Nominee: Sean Hennessy

Community Representatives: Maureen Doyle & Paddy Kelly

The Board of Management met formally for 5 meetings during the year. Outside of these meetings the Chairperson and Secretary were in contact weekly. The Board of Management is responsible for the Management of the school and to provide an appropriate education for all pupils in the school.

Policies Ratified by the Board

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Review
- Dignity at Work
- Protected Disclosures
- Data Protection
- Healthy Eating
- Homework
- School Tour
- Admissions Policy

We also reviewed the Anti Bullying Policy Checklist

Finances

During the 2019/20 school year the Board of Management of the school has undertaken its duties in a number of areas. The Board has made funds available to the Principal teacher and staff to enhance and improve the resources in the school across a variety of subject areas. Aladdin ePayments has been set up and will be operational from September to make payments easier for parents. Accounts for 18/19 submitted to FSSU. Finances are reviewed and certified annually by an independent accountant annually. Sean Hennessey and Margot Quigley (secretary) assist with this process.

Staffing

We have clustered with Davidstown NS, Ballycullane NS and Ballaghkeene NS to create the shared SET post this year

Ms Kickham tendered her resignation in January to take up a principalship. Pauline Lehane covered her leave from March to June. Bertie Gahan was taken off the Supplementary Panel to replace Ms Kickham. Mrs Doyle notified the Board of her intention to retire in October after 40 yrs teaching in Courtnacuddy. Stephanie Roche was taken from Supplementary Panel to replace Catherine from 4th October.

The In-School Management team comprises Mr. Gallagher, Mrs. Doyle, Ms. McGrath (Assistant Principal II post holder) and Mrs Catherine O'Brien (Assistant Principal II). This team meets regularly and carries out extra duties/responsibilities for curricular, organisational and pastoral care areas. The principal and deputy principal meet on a formal basis regularly.

Attendance

Our attendance rate was 95.1%. Only 3 pupils missed over 20 days while 16 pupils had full attendance up to 12th March when school closed. Attendance records are kept using Aladdin, the school's administration system. Annual returns were made to Túsla regarding attendance. All attendance records are being kept electronically as per DES Circular 0033/2015.

Our projected enrolment for September 2020 is 130. There are 16 6th class pupils transitioning to secondary school and 15 new entrants for September 2019.

Ethos

Courtnacuddy NS is a Catholic school and as such promotes a Catholic ethos. This year the particular events to celebrate our ethos were:

- Start of year mass
- Distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday
- Catholic Schools Week (February)
- Grandparents' Day: mass and open day in school
- Sacramental preparation: first confession and first holy communion
- Confirmation preparation
- Supporting various charities such as Goal, Trocaire & CF Ireland

School Building

During the summer 2019 the markings on the school carpark were resprayed. The school is due to get painted in the coming months once the weather allows. The Board would like to thank Dickie Murphy (caretaker) for all his hard work in ensuring the school grounds are kept in a good condition and to Liz Doran (Cleaner) for her continued dedication to keeping the school clean.

Continued Professional Development

The Board has supported ongoing professional development of teachers. All teachers in the school have undertaken professional development in a wide variety of areas such as ICT, Special Education Needs, Literacy & Numeracy and Physical Education.

Parents Association

This year, with assistance from the Parents' Association and the greater parent body, we purchased additional iPads. These are an invaluable resource for use in the classroom. Science equipment has also been sourced and will be purchased in the new year. Fundraising money was also used to purchase Sports equipment in addition to resources for use in the SEN setting. The Parents Association also funded a workshop from Brickz4Kidz as part of Engineers Week. The Parents Association play a vital role in school life in Courtnacuddy organising events such as Halloween Disco, Christmas Fair, Sports Evening etc. The Board extends its thanks to

the Parents' Association for all the support it gives the school particularly in the area of fundraising.

Competitions/Special Events

There was a strong emphasis on participation in a diverse range of activities over the course of the school year. Among the activities/events/competitions that our pupils participated in were

- Class Assemblies
- SFI Excellence in STEM Award
- Music tuition
- School tours
- Art competitions
- Credit Union Quiz
- AgriAware Farm Talk
- Swimming lessons
- Rackard league Football, Hurling & Camogie
- Tag Rugby coaching
- Community Clean Up
- GAA coaching
- INSPA photography- Category Winner
- Fire Officers Visit
- Sports Day

The Board of Management thanks the Principal, teaching staff and ancillary staff for their commitment to the school during the year especially considering the strange conclusion to the year. The Board commends the staff for all their hard work continuing the teaching online during the Lockdown. It also commends the involvement and work of the parents of the school, members of the Parents' Association and members of the community who actively support the school in various ways. The pupils of the school are to be commended for their excellent behaviour, co-operation and their many achievements. The Board of Management looks forward to the continued success of Courtnacuddy National School in the coming school year.

David Reck

Chairperson, BOM