



Garrydoolis National School

Board of Management – Annual Report 2020



Board of Management 2020

A new Board of Management came into being on the 1st December 2019

Chairperson- Joanne Beary

Treasurer- Donal Grace (Parent Nominee)

Secretary- Heidi Jordan

Patron's Rep- Fr. Pat Burns

Teacher Rep - Tina Hickey

Parent Nominees- Sharon O'Connor, Donal Grace

Community Reps- Dan Quinn, Marie Ryan

School Ethos

We are an inclusive Catholic school in the diocese of Cashel and Emly. In co-operation with Fr. Burns and parents, Catholic children were prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (17/2/20) and First Holy Communion (due to take place on 25/4/20 but postponed due to Covid 19). Family masses were celebrated on 13/10/19, 17/11/19 and 16/2/20 when senior pupils formed the choir and completed readings.

Summer Works/Buildings

We look forward to the repainting of the exterior of our school building this summer and the replacement of front windows. Paint will also be refreshed as necessary on the interior.

Staffing

Staffing during this academic year has been as follows:

Principal/ Special Education: Heidi Jordan

Junior Classroom: Tina Hickey

Senior Classroom: Séamus Heffernan

Secretary: Breda Ryan

Cleaner: Michelle English

The Board of Management would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff to the school and to thank them most sincerely for same.

Parents' Association 2019/20

Chairperson: Denis O'Sullivan

Secretary: Patricia McGrath

Treasurers: Marie Grace and Kathleen Looby

Members: JJ Ryan, Davy Hogan, Sinéad Gorman,

Donal Grace, Sharon O'Connor

We sincerely thank our Parents' Association for their work with the following activities this year:

Sammy Saving Stamps and Clothes Recycling.

Unfortunately due to school closure since March 13th, their assistance with our Seachtain na Gaeilge Maidin Chaife, a further clothes recycling event, Active Week and Family Fun Day, which was to be held on Sunday 24th May, could not go ahead. We hope that such an event can be organised for our school community when restrictions allow. The Board wishes to acknowledge and thank all parents for their continued support of our school.

School Closure

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, our school was closed to pupils from 13th March and this closure was subsequently extended to the remainder of the school year. Teachers set activities to support distance learning on a weekly basis using work packs and online resources. Support of and communications with our families were hugely important to us during closure.

Policy Development

Policies worked on and reviewed by the BoM this year include: School Self Evaluation Plan (2018 -2020), Admissions Policy (Approved by Patron). In-school procedures are reviewed regularly throughout the year.

Primary Language Curriculum

Our school was very lucky to secure PDST support during this school year in relation to the new Primary Language Curriculum. This support was specifically tailored to suit our school.

Curricular Development

School Self-Evaluation continued with focus on the use of oral Irish as a means of general communication throughout the school. Literacy Lift Off was continued for junior pupils and graded reading continued for seniors. Team teaching was used in the junior room for Mata sa Rang and in the senior room for Maths Blast, IZAK9 and novel. Our graded approach to the teaching of spellings continued and we investigated and trialed an online approach which allows for individual progression with spelling and can be monitored both in class and online by teachers. Robotics was introduced in the senior room and we took part in the Creative Schools' Programme. In relation to well-being, we partook in Amber Flag programme. Teacher CPD took place in the New Language Curriculum, PE, Maths Differentiation and the Incredible Years Programme.

School Achievements and Events

Election of Student Council 2019/20, Inclusion in the Creative Schools' Programme 2020, Tree Day, Tin whistle lessons with Comhaltas, Walk for Eve which raised six thousand euro, 7-A-Side Football Finalists, "Kick Off Christmas Bake Sale", Juniors' visit to Glen Vets, Cork Pops, Christmas Show, Panto in U.L., Christmas Shoebox Appeal, Girls' Indoor Hurling Blitz, Great Limerick Run Workshops, Community Games Art Successes, Friendship/ Anti-Bullying Week, Maths/ Science Weeks, Engineers' Week- Visit to UL show, Visit of gardaí to talk about road safety, TLC Slogan Winners, Science Blast preparation- our project idea was featured in an ad run by ESB in local and national newspapers, Completion of L.E.A.F. Programme, 6th Green Flag- Global Citizenship