



**Holywell Educate Together National School
Board of Management
Annual Report 2022/23**



Board of Management Members 2022/2023

<i>Chairperson</i>	Denis Brennan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Carolyn Barnes
<i>Secretary</i>	Maria Boyne
<i>Teacher Nominee</i>	Mark Lawless
<i>Parent Nominees</i>	Paul Murray
	Federica Andriani
<i>Community Nominees</i>	Vincent Connolly
	Gráinne Mc Kenna

The Board of Management held six meetings this school year, 28/9/22, 30/11/22, 1/2/23, 22/3/23, 10/5/23 & 21/6/23

Child Protection in Holywell ETNS

Roles & Responsibilities:

Maria Boyne: *Designated Liaison Person (DLP)*

Cathal Manning: *Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)*

Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended in November 2022.

Anti-bullying Policy reviewed in November 2022.

Policy Development & Review

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended.
- Anti-bullying Policy reviewed.
- Communication Policy in Holywell ETNS
- Amendment of Admissions Policy to include compliance with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).
- Homework Policy review with parent/guardian, staff & student focus group
- Handwriting Policy
- Spellings Policy
- Critical Incidents Policy

Thanks to all the members of the school community who took part in the work

School Ethos & Child Centred Education

The Student Council were elected this year under the guidance and support of Assistant Principal Erica Hogan. Senior Student Council members from 6th class were:

Mark R.'s 6th Class: Hanock Geo Shibu

Richie's 6th: Ruby Mc Keon

Elaine 6th: Camilla Bonsignori

Members of the Student Council visited the Houses of the Oireachtas in November 2022.

The Student Council held the following fundraising campaigns this year:

In aid of the Simon Community & Focus Ireland. The children encouraged everyone to wear yellow to shine a light on homelessness as part of homelessness awareness month. The students raised just under €800!!

The students also worked on the European Day of Languages Challenge to celebrate the diverse range of languages spoken in the homes of our families.

Holywell ETNS participated in the second year of the Nurture School Programme which offers support for children who might be experiencing anxiety or trauma in their lives. The Programme is subsidized by Educate Together and Dublin City University.

At the end of September, the school hosted a day of celebration for other Educate Together schools in North Dublin. Staff members show cased how the programme runs in our school. We officially opened our two Nurture Rooms. Some groups of students from the Nurture Groups visited Dublin Zoo in March and Bloom in the Phoenix Park in May.

'Rainbows' support group for students experiencing bereavement or separation also resumed this year after-school. The programme is managed by Eimear Heron.

The annual 'Winter Concert' took place remotely in December and 'Holywell's Got Talent' took place in June in person, over two sittings.

Students was awarded it's first Amber Flag award from Pieta House, for raising awareness amongst the school community for demonstrating excellence in promoting positive mental health.

Well-being is part of the school Improvement Plan, which also complements the Department of Education's Well-being Policy Statement and Framework for Practice. The school was very fortunate to employ a qualified play-therapist, Andrea Clare Plunkett, to work weekly with specific children in our school.

Teacher-led after-school clubs also resumed last September, offering students a chance to participate in clubs based on sport, cookery, foreign languages, science, music etc.

The school is embedding the practices as a 'Restorative Practice Learning Community' in how it deals with conflict and behaviour management.

The school held face to face Parent Teacher Meetings in October 2022.

We held the Junior Infants Play Date & Information Session for new parents in June.

School Achievements

The school was awarded the Amber Flag in recognition of work carried out on supporting children's mental health. Thank you to Sarah Howard, Sarah Markham and Eva Dowd for all their work on the project.

4th Class students participated in the Peace Proms Programme, which is a cross- border music initiative culminating in performing in the RDS with the National Youth Orchestra. Thanks to Stuart Purcell for organising the whole event.

Children in Vincent's 4th class and Orla's 1st class won a trip to the Bloom Festival in the Phoenix Park with Agri Aware.

Photography company 'County Photos' visited the school in November to photograph all students and the children in the pre-school.

Tours & Outings

Annual school tours took place this year, with the following venues being visited:

Junior Infants- 'Let's Go' in DCU

Senior Infants- Causey Farm

1st Class- Navan Adventure Centre

2nd Class- Let's Go Tours', Gormanston College

3rd Class-'Let's Go Tours', Gormanston College

4th Class- 'Alive Outside', Kilruddery

5th Class -'Astropark' Coolock

6th Class--'Emerald Park' Autism Classes- Jumpzone

Trips earlier in the year took place with 5th & 6th class children seeing the Irish language film 'An Cailín Ciúin', the autism classes visiting Newbridge House at the end of December, third class visited the Botanic Gardens and fourth class visited the cinema. Aedín & Fiona L.'s classes practiced using their leap cards by taking the bus to Malahide and Swords Castle.

58 6th class children also went to the Donegal Gaeltacht in Rann Féirste in May, accompanied by teachers Elaine Guerin, Mark Reynolds & Orla McWeeney.

The 'Big Dig' also visited the school in the spring and worked with first and second classes.

In June, the school held Active Week, to incorporate the targets for the Active Flag renewal. It also held the annual school walk around Holywell. Sports Day also took place this week, on the school grounds for the junior classes and on Holywell pitches for the older students.

We held the 6th class graduation ceremony on June 22nd, with a formal ceremony and a disco and pizza for the students.

Football teams in soccer and GAA were re-established for boys' and girls' teams, as well as a girls' basketball team. Various tournaments and competitions were entered in the various school and Fingal Leagues.

Thank you to teachers Aedín Hayes, Elaine Guerin, Michael Davitt, Sarah Howard, Sinéad Mc Cutcheon and Mark Brennan for volunteering their time with the children.

New Developments at Holywell ETNS

Our biggest and most ambitious fundraising campaign 20/20/20 was launched in Spring to collect funds for the new astro yard. The school raised €17,000 towards the project along with a €5000 donation from Bright Motors in Airside. The Childcare donated over €128,000 to the school for the astro and new fencing.

Planning permission for the new autism class extension was finally granted at the end of March, with the project soon going for tender.

Eimear Heron has been certified as a trained 'Reading Recovery' teacher. This is a specific literacy programme for the early intervention of students who show difficulties in reading in senior infants. The school has been awarded a training opportunity for a second 'Reading Recovery' teacher, which will begin in the new school year.

Eimear Heron was appointed to the position of Assistant Principal I in November 2022 and joined the senior management team in the school. Joshua Jacob and Mark Brennan were appointed Assistant Principal II in spring this year and join the school's Leadership and Management Team.

In November, our second class children visited our neighbours in Scoil an Duinnínigh and were given a very warm welcome. In June, our school repaid the visit by welcoming the children to Holywell ETNS. Holywell ETNS started a new affiliation with Fingallians GAA club who started working with the club's GPO.

The school also participated in training and workshops with the FAI and Malahide & Leinster Rugby. The school is appointed a new NEPS psychologist Dermot Bergin to work with the school.

Curricular Development

The New Primary Language Curriculum

Teachers attended the training on the roll-out of the PLC by completing the webinars on the PDST website and participating in planning sessions. The school implemented the new programme from Gill publishers 'Over the Moon' to integrate the PLC across all strands of the English curriculum in all classes.

On March 9th, the new Primary Curriculum framework was published by the Department of Education. The school closed for a half day closure to review the new structure and content.

The new Maths curriculum will also be introduced in the new school year, with a full day closure planned for the school.

The school had an 'incidental inspection' carried out by school inspector Catherine Treacy, in September 2022. Feedback from the inspection was excellent.

Staffing

Teachers

Career Breaks 2022/23

Caitríona Mulvin

Joshua Jacob returned from career break

Job-share arrangements 2022/23:

Aoileann Quinlan & Louise Ryan

Fiona Lavelle & Bronwyn Kelly

Fiona Murray & Alexine Greene

Louise Lynch & Fiona Victory

Special Needs Assistants

Job-share arrangements 2022/23

Mandy Johnson & Lisa Gilmartin

Cronagh Connolly & Yvonne Sweeney

We said goodbye to our secretaries Siobhán Lyons in September 2022 and Jenny Mc Manus in November 2022. Siobhán had been our part-time secretary since 2016 and was the school's first responder. Jenny had been our first, full-time secretary since 2011 when the school was in its infancy. The Board of Management are very grateful for all their service to our school.

In October we welcomed Martina Downes to the school to support Leona and Jenny in the office. Martina has been an amazing asset to our school since her arrival.

Parent Teacher Association & Parental Involvement

Sadly, Sharon Roche and Jill Gallagher stepped down from their roles in the PTGA having spent the recent years at the helm of the committee. Jill and Sharon's commitment to supporting the children in our school has been hugely beneficial to our school community. The Board of Management would like to express its sincere thanks to them both for their enthusiasm, energy and support during their time in the association. Our new PTGA committee is comprised of:

David Davis- Chairperson

Dorone Paris- Secretary

Lara Rodriguez Perez- Treasurer

Joshua Jacob is also the teacher representative on the Association

The PTGA ran the 'Christmas card' appeal, as well as a giving a full week of their time (especially Jill Gallagher) to run the Annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Yoga classes and art class were also organised for parents by Erica in the community centre. The National Parents Council also provided a talk to parents on Cyber safety.

Tony McKay, pharmacist, and father of Conor & Beau, volunteered with his wife Cronia, to administer the flu vaccine to students whose parents gave their consent.

Establishment of a Holywell ETNS Parent's Faith Formation Committee led by Róisín Kelly and Tracy Maguire. Thanks to all our parents & grandparents who kindly came to read to the infants, participate in Maths week activities, and who dishes for multi-cultural day in the junior classes.

Remembering Michelle Mc Keown- Page

On Monday April 3rd we learned of the shockingly tragic news, that our beautiful colleague and friend Michelle Mc Keown- Page had died suddenly. Michelle has only just married on April 1st and was on honeymoon in Spain when she passed away.

Michelle had been a special education teacher in Holywell ETNS since September 2015, having worked a support teacher and also as the autism class teacher. Michelle epitomised the child-centred ethos of Educate Together. She was an advocate for Restorative Practice and had a natural curious mind, which saw her constantly engage in professional development in order to develop into the excellent educator she was.

The school community of Holywell ETNS desperately misses Michelle and are grateful for having Michelle's skills and talents in our school for eight years.

'Ní bheidh a leithead arís'



Thank You/Míle Buíochas

On behalf of the Board of Management of Holywell Educate Together National School, I would like to thank the incredibly talented and dedicated staff in the school, teaching and non-teaching staff for the wonderful work they do daily in the school. Despite there being a chronic shortage of trained teachers in the education system, the teachers in Holywell ETNS have always put the needs of the children first, helping out in whatever way they could to support the children.

A sincere thanks to all the parents & guardians in the school for supporting the work of our staff here in the school each day.

We would also like to thank the PTGA members who as volunteers, with families and responsibilities of their own, are always willing and enthusiastic to support the school in anyway they can.

We would like to wish everyone in the community of Holywell ETNS a safe and restful summer and look forward to a more normal but exciting school year for 2023/24.

School re-opens on Thursday August 31st at 8.30am.