



**Holywell Educate Together National School**  
**Board of Management**  
**Annual Report 2021/22**



## **Board of Management Members 2021/2022**

<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.

## **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 2021.

Anti-bullying Policy reviewed in November 2021.

## **Policy Development & Review**

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended.
- Anti-bullying Policy reviewed.
- Covid19 Response Plan (in line with HSE/NPHET/DES guidance & advice) is amended three times throughout the year.
- Communication Policy in Holywell ETNS
- Policy Document on the Management of Teachers' Budgets
- Policy on the Continual Professional Development of Staff in Holywell ETNS
- Policy Document on Special Needs Assistants in Holywell ETNS
- Policy Document on Extra Personal Vacation Days in Holywell ETNS

- Policy Document on Managing Behaviours of Concern (as a appendix to the Positive Behaviour Policy) in Holywell ETNS

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

Due to the easing of restrictions imposed on the school due to covid 19, face to face Board meetings resumed in December 2021.

### **School Ethos & Child Centred Education**

The Student Council were elected this year under the guidance and support of Assistant Principal Eileen Gamble. Erica Hogan then assumed responsibility for working with the Student Council in Term3. Senior Student Council members from 6<sup>th</sup> class were:

Lily-Ann Phelan

Amy West

Nicola Korczak

Members of the Student Council visited the offices of the Ombudsman for Children in May.

The Student Council held the following fundraising campaigns this year:

- Pyjama Day- in December, where €2400 was raised for the Simon Community
- A cake sale for the Ronald Mc Donald House
- The Red Cross for the Ukrainian Crisis

The school rolled out it's first full year of the Nurture School's Programme, with four staff members, Erica Hogan, Eimear Heron, Louise Lynch and Eileen Gamble, working with various groups of children. Outings organised for students in the groups were to places such as the zoo, 'Bloom' in the Phoenix Park and Newbridge House.

'Rainbows' support group for students experiencing bereavement or separation also resumed this year after-school. Additional training was taken by teachers Eileen Gamble and Erica Hogan as facilitators of the programme.

Staff trained as part of the school's application of the 'Autism Friendly' school project with 'AsiAm'. Students in Rob's class introduced the 'Heads or Tails', Same Chance Challenge' in

association with 'AsIAm' where they raised €500 for 'AsIAm', as part of autism awareness month.

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

Students also were involved in the Active Flag Committee, as part of the school's renewal of the Active Flag.

School lunch company 'The Lunch Bag' collaborated with the school to deliver lunches daily to the students and staff. One third of the pupils use this facility, with free lunches provided to vulnerable students.

A school photography competition took place to motivate children again with their learning, as well as the children submitting art pieces for exhibition in the school.

Teacher-led after-school clubs also resumed after spring mid-term, offering students a chance to participate in clubs based on sport, Gaeilge, 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 also held in-person Parent Teacher Meetings in March following the lifting of covid-restrictions.

The Board of Management treated the children to various activities in early May as a thank-you to everyone for their resilience during the pandemic. 'Toots' train took the infants around the estate, the ice-cream van visited the school, we had a bouncy castle for the older students and a disco in the yard.

Magician Jamie came to show off his tricks to the infants back in May, as well as the archaeological society of Ireland's 'The Big Dig', who visited the middle classes with their impressive display of treasures.

We held the Junior Infants Play Date & Information Session for new parents in May, in person.

## School Achievements

Junior Infants in Olivia O'Loughlin's class won for being selected as a county winner in this year's **Someone Like Me art competition 2021**, with the National Disability Authority.

Children's Books Ireland launched the 'Every Child a Reader' project in our school.

We have received €1500 worth of books initially for the school. Author Shane Hegarty (from the Darkmouth Series and Boot) visited the older classes for writing workshops.

The school successfully renewed the Active Flag in June.

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

European STEM School Label – The school was awarded as a Competent STEM School -Valid until December 2023. This means we have demonstrated that we promote and develop STEM within our school context and that we collaborate as a team to do this through implementation in SSE action plans etc.

### Incredible Edibles

Eimear & Eddie worked on the Incredible Edibles - Gold Award 2022. They collaborated to complete the programme this year and have been awarded Gold. Five tasks had to be completed. These involved a farm visit (completed via Zoom with airfield estate), completing projects on farm to fork, growing strawberries, potatoes and lettuce), looking at healthy eating and using Irish grown produce to cook. (Eddie's class made chips using Irish potatoes).

### *Tours & Outings*

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

Junior Infants- Newgrange Farm, Co. Meath

Senior Infants- Newgrange Farm, Co. Meath

1<sup>st</sup> Class- Astropark

2<sup>nd</sup> Class- Dublin Zoo

3<sup>rd</sup> Class-'Let's Go Tours', Gormanston College

4<sup>th</sup> Class- -' Alive Outside', Kilruddery

5<sup>th</sup> Class -'Alive Outside', Kilruddery

6<sup>th</sup> Class--'Alive Outside', Kilruddery

Autism Classes- Jumpzone

73 6<sup>th</sup> class children also went to the Donegal Gaeltacht in Rann Féirste in May, accompanied by teachers Mark Brennan, Michael Davitt, Saidhbhín Mulchrone & Eimear Heron.

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 in June, on the school grounds for the junior classes and on Holywell pitches for the older students.

We held the 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation ceremony in person for the first time in three years and celebrated the 98 students leaving our school for secondary school.

### **New Developments at Holywell ETNS**

The school opened it's fourth autism class in September 2021, based temporarily in the school library.

Michael Hetheron & Associates have been appointed as consultants for the building project. The planning application for the extension has been submitted in late June.

The school has been successful in having a teacher trained as a certified '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 welcomed three Ukrainian students to our school in spring. The students have been supported through an English As an Additional Language Support Teacher, placement in the 'Breakfast Club' and 'after-school' and a place in the 'Nurture schools programme'

The school will act as a 'Showcase for Nurture Schools' by welcoming other schools participating in the programme to the community centre to share practice in late September 2022.

From September, the school will work with an art therapist teacher as part of the School Improvement Plan on well-being and as a trauma informed intervention.

### **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 will use the new programme from Gill publishers 'Over the Moon' to integrate the PLC across all strands of the English curriculum in all classes.

### *Léitheoireacht Gaeilge (Irish Reading)*

New graded Irish readers will be introduced to all classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> class from September 2022.

### **Emergency Works/Buildings**

The school has just been granted funded under the Emergency Works scheme for replacement of lighting and emergency lighting in the school. It is expected that the works will be carried out during the next holiday period in the school year 2022/23.

### **Staffing**

#### *Teachers*

Career Breaks 2021/2022

#### **Joshua Jacob & Mary Comiskey**

Job-share arrangements 2021/22:

In-school-**Aoileann Quinlan & Louise Ryan**

In another school- **Caitríona Mulvin**

#### *Special Needs Assistants*

Job-share arrangements 2021/22:

Mandy Johnson & Lisa Gilmartin

Leisa Coughlan & Wendy Russell.

There were 45 teachers and 30 Special Needs Assistants on staff. The school welcomed two new permanent teachers: Sinéad Mc Cutcheon, Richard Gleeson & Vincent Traynor.

Teacher Gráinne Masterson resigned to take up a new teaching position in Ballyboughal NS.

#### Leadership & Management Positions in Holywell ETNS

Eimear Heron, Erica Hogan & Vincent Traynor were appointed as Assistant Principal IIs to the Leadership and Management in November 2021.

## **Parent Teacher Association & Parental Involvement**

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is renamed the Parent Teacher and Guardian Association (PTGA)

Chairperson of the PTGA: Sharon Farrell Roche.

Treasurer: Jill Gallagher

The PTGA ran the 'Christmas card' appeal, as well as a Christmas raffle to fundraise for sensory walks around the school.

The PTGA ran its first disco for the children on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The PTGA provided fruity treats for the children on Sports Day.

Refreshments for parents & sweet treats were also provided for the families of the 6<sup>th</sup> class children on their graduation.

Erica organised a coffee morning for parents in the community centre in March. Musical entertainment was provided by Saidhbhín's junior infants and Ronan's 5<sup>th</sup> class.

Yoga classes were also organised for parents by Erica in the community centre.

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 Anne Marie Kiernan and a group of other parents.

## **Notes of Sympathy**

The Board of Management expressed its shock, sadness and sympathy to the school community of Durrow National School, Tullamore, following the tragic murder of teacher Ashling Murphy. Staff members here in Holywell ETNS held a minute's silence at the time of her funeral.

The Board of Management also sent its condolences to the school community of Wicklow ETSS, following the sudden death of school principal Colm Kehoe. Colm was the first principal of the new, developing school which opened in 2019.

## **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. The school year was again dominated by covid19 restrictions and evolving health advice and recommendations. At times, staffing levels were critically low and the chances of keeping classrooms opened and fully staffed were compromised. Thankfully, we overcame this situation and continued to provide the optimum teaching and learning opportunities for students.

A sincere thanks to all the parents & guardians in the school for providing support and co-operation to school staff during the school closure. Many families experienced high levels of stress, anxiety and uncertainty. We appreciate the great support and trust shown by you throughout the year.

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 2022/23.

**School re-opens on Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 8.30am.**