



# Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa, Urlingford N.S.,

Roll Number 19930D  
New Road, Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, via Thurles, E41 A567

## **Annual Report of the Board of Management December 2018**

The present Board of Management of Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa was formed in December 2015 and will continue until November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019.

In total, the Board met seven times during the year December 2017 – November 2018. The members of the Board are Fr. Oliver Maher P.P. and Mrs Teresa Norton (Patron's Representatives), Mrs Marie Tobin and Mr Paul Minogue (Elected Parents' Representatives), Ms Patrick Doyle (Elected Teachers' Representative), Mrs Helen Phelan and Mr Desmond Fitzgerald (Community Representatives) and Mr Dermot Dunphy (School Principal). Mr Patrick Doyle replaced Mrs Eileen Kennedy as the teachers' representative in November 2017 on the occasion of Mrs Kennedy's retirement. When Ms Clair Phelan returned from career break, the staff agreed that Mr Doyle would continue as staff representative until the end of this Board. The following officers were elected at the inaugural meeting of this board: Chairperson: Fr Oliver Maher; Secretary: Mr Dermot Dunphy (this position is automatic unless the school principal declines to take up the role); Treasurer: Mr Desmond Fitzgerald; Health and Safety Officer: Mrs Marie Tobin.

### **Project Work:**

**New Building:** In August this year, the Department of Education and Skills granted the school money for the provision of a new classroom, a new SEN Room and a new user assisted toilet. The Board has completed stage one of the process, the appointment of Architect/Consultants and we have begun the design stage. The Board will look at all possibilities in this stage, which may include the provision by the school of a second room which can be used as a GP room and may be linked with another room to allow for extra space when needed. In this way we would hope to be able to provide a space for extra activities such as Speech and Drama and PE on wet days. The process is very clearly laid out by the DES and will take quite a while to progress through the stages (design, planning, tender, build). However, the Board's intention is to ensure each stage moves at an optimum pace and hopefully we will see building commence as early as possible in 2019.

**New Prefab:** As the school expanded last year, we had a tenth classroom teacher appointed. Until the new classroom is in place, the school has been grant aided for a prefab unit which is in place at the country end of the school.



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**Lighting:** The lights in all the classrooms have been refitted with new improved lighting. There are only a few small rooms left to replace lighting. These are mainly storerooms and work rooms. All teaching areas are now modernised.

**Staff:** Over the past two years there has been quite an amount of change in our staffing. Firstly, we have had, in the past fourteen months, the retirement of Mrs Eileen Kennedy and Mrs Ann Brennan. Added to this Ms Sarah Casey is presently on career break and Ms Clair Phelan returned from career break in September 2018. Ms Siobhan Tobin, who spent two years in our school, moved to St Mary's NS Thomastown this summer. We have three new permanent members of staff, Ms Deirdre McGovern, Ms Jacinta McHugh and Ms Shonagh Ahern. We also have Mr Eamonn McGrath working in the school for the present school year in place of Ms Sarah Casey. We welcome all our new teachers to Urlingford and wish those who have retired and moved on all the very best.

## **School Matters:**

**Health and Safety:** Mrs Marie Tobin, as Board Health and Safety Officer, conducted a full walk through of the school last year and identified areas for improvement. Many of these items have been addressed and a review walk through is planned.

**Uniforms:** Since summer 2017, our uniforms are available in Uniform World, Market Cross, Kilkenny. Generic items on the school uniform are available widely. In the past two terms, children have received notices indicating which uniform should be worn (full or tracksuit) by each class and parents are asked to be fully cognisant of these requirements.

**Droichead:** The DES have a new Probation and Induction Framework called Droichead which is being rolled out throughout the country. Our school became a Droichead school last year when two of our staff members, Ms Ryan and Mr Dunphy undertook training to become Droichead accredited mentors. This means the school will be able to assist newly qualified teachers in achieving full probation if they come to work in our school.

**Student Teachers:** There is a much higher demand for student placement from the Teacher Training Colleges with the introduction of the four year B. Ed Programme. The school policy on student placement is that the school will do all they can to help students who are past pupils or from the parish. Other requests will be taken on a case by case basis and depend on availability of classes and a teacher's willingness to take a student in their class. For the



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present school year, there will be four placements in our school, three of which have been completed by Christmas 2018.

## Notable Days:

The school choir again took part in Peace Proms in February and performed at a beautiful concert in The Hub, Cillin Hill, Kilkenny with many other schools and the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland.

First Holy Communion Day was another lovely day and again, the choir provided beautiful music for the ceremony.

The School will celebrate Confirmation and First Communion this year. Confirmation will be on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, the first time Confirmation will be held on a school day. The new Bishop of Ossory has changed the days for Confirmation from just weekends to holding confirmations from Thursday to Sunday. First Holy Communion will be on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

The Green Schools' Committee and the Health Promoting School Committee continue to work on different projects. The Green Schools' Committee are working on Flag number 6 - Global Citizenship. Both committees were involved in our 'Red Day' – giving Racism the Red Card back in October. We have twenty different nationalities represented in our school community.

The Parents' Council Coffee Morning and The School Jumble Sale, held last week were both very well attended and successful.

## **Policies:**

The Board of Management ratified two major policies this year.

In March, the Board completed and adopted the new Child Protection Procedures. These are displayed on our Child Protection Noticeboard in school and on the school website.

The Board have also recently reviewed the school's Data Protection with reference to GDPR. This was ratified at our latest meeting and brings the school policy in line with the new regulations. This will be available on the school website in early January.



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## **Thanks:**

The Board wishes to thank all those who have contributed to school life and helping our school during the year. The school staff, ancillary staff, parents and guardians, Parents' Council, sponsors, community groups, neighbours and friends. Our school community is part of our parish community and the support and co-operation of everyone enables us to ensure the children of our school develop and grow every day. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to a prosperous and fruitful new year in 2019.