

# ***Holy Cross Boys' P.S.***

BUNSCOIL GASÚR NA  
CROISE NAOLA



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

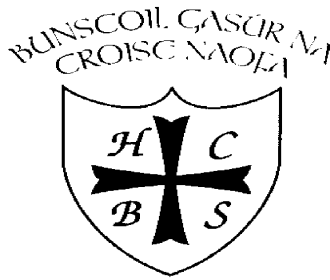
## **PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL** **REPORT 2020/21**

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING:**

**Date: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

\*

Due to Covid19 Restrictions and in keeping with current guidelines HCB are unable to welcome the parents to the annual meetings. The report will be uploaded and made accessible to the parents via the HCB School App



## ***Holy Cross Boys' P.S.***

### **Report of the Board of Governors to parents for the year 2020 – 2021**

The annual meeting of parents will be held in the School Assembly Hall in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School.

The purpose of this meeting is to give those in attendance an opportunity to discuss the annual report and to air their views in relation to the Board of Governors, the Education Authority, CCMS and the Department of Education.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

- 1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman**
- 2. Presentation of the Annual Report**
- 3. Discussion of the Annual Report**
- 4. Any other business**

### **Introduction**

Each school is required to give parents an annual report so they will continue to know what is happening and to be involved in the education of their child.

We, on the Board of Governors, are delighted to take this opportunity to report to you on the work of our outstanding school. We know you will read it with interest and accept the invitation to attend the Annual Parents' Meeting. We thank Mr McArevey for his assistance in preparing this report. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued interest.

**Mr S. Magennis**

**Chairman of the Board of Governors'**

## **General Aims of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School**

We are a Catholic school seeking to promote throughout the school an ethos which reflects Christian teaching and values.

All our activities are underpinned by our Mission Statement.

### **Mission Statement**

At Holy Cross Boys' School we aim to create a calm and caring community where teachers teach and children learn.

Each child will be encouraged to fulfil his intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values, the recognition of the worth and value of each child and the cultivation of self-respect so that the child may accept his appropriate responsibilities and show respect for others.

At Holy Cross Boys' we aim to establish a community wherein pupils, teachers, parents and support staff enjoy a sense of belonging and have an important part to play.

Such a statement requires the development of several policies on curriculum development, special needs, the pastoral dimension, staff development, home school links and a positive discipline policy.

### **Duties of the Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school.

The Board comprises of the following members:

#### **Trustee Representatives**

Mrs Gerry O'Reilly  
Fr Eugene McCarthy (Vice Chair)  
Mrs Ann Maginn  
Miss Darragh Lee

#### **BELB Representatives**

Mrs Geraldine Prenter  
Mr Steven Magennis (Chairman)

#### **Teachers' Elected Representative**

Mrs Siobhan Martin

#### **DENI Representative**

Mr Sean Devine

#### **Parents' Elected Representative**

Mr Brendan Mailey

#### **School Principal**

Mr McArevey

The term of office of each member of the Board, excluding the Principal, will expire in December 2021.

## **STAFFING**

- Miss Mc Laughlin in Australia until August 2022.
- Staff attendance has been excellent for years.
- Maternity leave –A Torbitt and D Connolly (CA). E Johnston covering A Torbitt's class (A. Torbitt considered for P/T next academic year).
- Mr Donnelly still on secondment to St John the Baptist.
- Part time for A Torbitt this year and next to be considered.
- Redundancies on hold due to Covid19 and new SEN Unit. B Wallace put into class and L. Flannigan running the Engage Programme (25k).
- Staff meetings continued via video link during periods of remote learning (Term 2) – hosted by Mr McArevey. CA philosophy session continued via video link also.

## **ENROLMENT**

- Successful Virtual Open Day for Sep 2021 Enrolment. Assistance offered in school for parents completing online application before January 2021.
- Primary 1 intake for September 2020 was 61 (one supernumerary) pupils.

## **FINANCE**

- 20k didn't come from Flax Trust- Expected to be used for Breakfast Club, Philosophy etc.
- Still on track to be in the black this financial year.
- Budget Allocation - £1542,161.
- £27K for Education Restart, allocation for Engage Programme and £ 3,200 for Mental Health & Wellbeing initiatives.
- All fundraising activities and initiatives will focus on Mental Health charities (focus on effects of Covid 19) and also used to replenish school funds.

## **BUILDING/ SITE**

- Unplanned fire drills have been carried out throughout the year.
- System is tested every Wednesday.
- Risk Assessment carried out by the team in November 2021.
- Cleaning staff given additional 30 minutes due to deep cleaning.
- School railings painted in community/ school effort during lockdown. Wonderful turn out by staff, parents and pupils.
- Garden makeover undertaken by Lorraine and S. McGuinness.
- Application was submitted to Flax Trust regarding new school pitch.

## **Curriculum**

- GLA Assessment breakdown: Cancelled due to C19
- Remote learning continued for all year groups after Christmas break with support work packs prepared and left at main school foyer for collection. Teachers continued to do video lessons with use of class apps.
- School building remained open for supervision of Key Workers', vulnerable and SEN children. Supervision provided by teaching staff and classroom assistants on a rota basis.
- Primary 1-3 children returned to classroom teaching on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Staggered start and finish times for year groups will continue alongside precautionary measures as listed in the Covid19 Risk Assessment folder compiled in 2020.

### **ENGLISH**

- **KS1 & KS2 – Recovery Curriculum-** Pupils completed Christmas tests from previous year with exception of Primary 1 (Term 1). Periods of remote learning (Terms 1 & 2).

### **MATHS**

- **KS1 & KS2 – Recovery Curriculum-** Pupils completed Christmas tests from previous year with exception of Primary 1 (Term 1). Periods of remote learning (Terms 1 & 2).

### **ICT**

- New Ipads given to teaching staff to ensure quality online Music, Seesaw and Dojo delivery.
- Principal monitored online Music, Seesaw and Dojo delivery - outstanding.
- Competition ran for pupils to demonstrate and photograph their strange but favourite places to read- £5 Lidl vouchers given to the winners.

### **ART**

- Recovery Curriculum.
- Anti-Bullying/ Mental Health & Wellbeing posters completed by the pupils were copied and displayed around the school.

### **FUNDING, TRIPS & PUBLICITY**

- School Bulletins uploaded on a daily basis - inclusive of weekly meals lists, birthdays, weekly challenges/ motivational quotes and the weekly news/ notices.
- Facebook & Twitter accounts updated regularly.
- Trips on hold due to current Covid19 restrictions and regulations.

## **W.A.U**

- Recovery Curriculum.

## **P.E**

- Online classes used for periods of remote learning (Joe Wickes).
- Timetables collated for both hall and pitch usage. Community Centre & Ardoyne Youth Cub also utilised.
- Gaelic and hurling coaching available through Gaelfast programme and Ulster Council GAA from Oct 2020 (P3-P5).
- Agreed that pupils will wear non-uniform on timetabled P.E days.

## **SPORTS**

Athletics  
Soccer  
GAA

} All sporting activities suspended due to ongoing pandemic restrictions.

## **RELIGION**

- *Catholic Ethos: A Framework for Self- Reflection.* Application submitted and Distinction awarded to Mr McArevey for Catholic Education Awards.
- Recovery Curriculum.

## **MUSIC**

- Application for £20K of musical equipment submitted by Mrs Martin.
- Online music classes and assemblies for all pupils.
- One to one music tuition temporarily suspended after Christmas due to P4-7 remote learning and Covid restrictions.
- St. Patrick's Day celebrations 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - music lesson for P1-3 using digital video link.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- Unable to conduct standardised assessments due to Covid19 pandemic restrictions (Terms 1&2). Testing recommenced in Term 3. All follow-up Round Table Meetings restricted to minimal numbers.

## **EXTENDED SCHOOLS**

- All ES money diverted to online resources inclusive of Accelerated Maths Scheme, Myon, Collin and CPOMs.

## **PRIMARY 1**

- Remote learning continued after Christmas with pupils returning to classroom teaching 08<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **DRAMA**

- Mrs Martin, alongside with P1-P3 teachers prepared an online Christmas show for parents.

## **COMMUNITY LINKS**

- Virtual Open Day planned and coordinated by Mr. Morrin & Mrs Mohan.
- 5 students on placement from St. Mary's (2 x Liberal Arts and 3 x Teaching Practice).
- Philosophy- Wall mural designed and completed by local artist with funding from NiHE.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

- On hold due to reconvene in the new School Academic Year (Sept 21).

## **REQUISITIONING– Iprocurement System**

- All orders processed and delivered digitally.
- Signed off and distributed accordingly.
- New coloured copier delivered and existing copier replaced (usage demonstration given to a number of assistants).

## **PDMU**

- Healthy break continuing.
- St Patrick's Day Celebrations 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020- Pupils encouraged to wear green to mark the occasion.
- 'Silly Sock Day' 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Pupils encouraged to wear odd socks in order to highlight anti- bullying. Pupil participation was a huge success.

## **SEN**

- Completed all necessary paperwork required to finalise 5 Statements for Special Needs pupils and 1 x Stage 5 Review and 1 x Stage 3 referral.
- Completed all necessary paperwork for 2 parental requests for Statementing.
- Allocated new assistant hours for 5 newly Statemented Special Needs Pupils, bearing in mind COVID restrictions and advice regarding bubbles etc. and provided new timetables for all assistants and teachers.
- Adjusted all break and lunch CA supervision timetables.
- Communicated with the parents of all new SEN pupils regarding provision and necessary adjustments.
- Updated the Special Needs Register and SIMS to include all updated information, bearing in mind the proposed SEND changes and April system update.

- Liaised with outside agencies and the EA Educational Psychologist to arrange observation and testing for one x P7 Transfer Review evaluating pupil progress. Mrs Reel consulted with the class teacher and assistants to complete all necessary paperwork and conducted the Annual review with the pupil's parent / teacher and assistant.
- Mrs Reel worked closely with SEN Team, Assessment, Maths and Communication coordinators to identify pupils in need of assistance and to maximise the additional support we could offer especially under COVID regulations and restrictions regarding pupil bubbles etc.
- Mrs Reel worked closely with class teachers to ensure early identification and intervention and completed any necessary referrals or sought advice from Outside Agencies regarding necessary onward steps.
- Updated the Leadership Team regarding Outside Agencies and necessary assessments / observations etc. that had to be carried out.
- Liaised with all Outside Agencies during the Term 2 Lockdown. This included; Educational Psychology / Harberton and Clarawood Behaviour Support Teachers / RISE NI / St Gerard's Learning Support Service / Peri Learning Support Service / AAIS / Barnardo's / Individual OTs etc. and the teachers and parents.
- Prepared timetables / allocated rooms / arranged entrance points / appropriate sanitising products / track and trace sign in sheets and the safe movement of pupils to their allocated support or service during Lockdown.
- Worked closely with RISE NI Team, Outreach teachers and other Outside Agencies to maximise the support provided.
- Completed referrals to Barnardo's See Hear and Respond Programme for pupils and the families in need.
- With help from the class teachers and assistants and after consultations with parents Mrs Reel completed numerous letters / questionnaires / medical referrals / forms etc for pupils requiring assessment for ASD / ADHD / OT / RISE NI / EA SEN Department and Educational Psychology Service / AAIS or information for the various Medical Consultants / DLA and the Housing Executive.
- Created an SEN What's App Group and liaised closely with all SEN assistants, parents and teachers during the TERM 2 Lockdown to arrange follow up actions and provide necessary support remotely and in person for specific pupils' difficulties or needs.
- Consulted with the class teachers / SEN assistants and parents to complete all necessary paperwork for the Statutory Annual Reviews and began conducting the Annual review virtual meetings with the pupils / pupil's parents / teachers and SEN assistants.
- Designed Sensory Walks to be added to each classroom corridors.
- Completed a large order of over £9000 for Sensory and SEN equipment.
- Met with parents and teachers regarding specific pupils' difficulties or needs planned necessary follow up actions.

## **NURTURE GROUPS**

- Suspended due to pandemic restrictions –continued after Easter break and following risk assessment.

## **INITIATIVES**

- Philosophy- K McArevey continued with online zoom philosophy sessions with P7 pupils.
- Philosophy book is currently in printers- held up due to the binding company on furlough
- Philosophy film is now completed- members of SLT and Chair of Governors were given a viewing.
- World Philosophy Day 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020 – Classes gave performances based on the works of Aristotle. All assemblies were recorded and uploaded online.



## **PASTORAL**

- The Potential Bullying Log continued to be used to record incidents and follow-up actions by staff to monitor incidents. 1 case recorded this year to date on 4th Nov involving Jude McWilliams and Aidan Green.
- Breakfast Club suspended due to current restrictions but morning supervision arranged for a limited number of pupils.
- Term 1 Attendance: New Attendance Monitor Groups established: GROUP 1: These 40 pupils were all <87% for their last academic year (20-21). GROUP 2: 16 pupils (P2-P7) were all between 87% - 90% for their last academic year. GROUP 3: 22 pupils with no attendance history issues but have had a decline since the beginning of this current year to End OCT 21 (Under 90%). Pupils (9) who have shown a significant improvement (+8%) in attendance for start of year (Sept to Midterm) as compared to 2020-21. P1 (5 pupils) showing early concerns with attendance and 12 pupils referred to EWS in 2020-2021 being tracked. (NI Average not available).
- Meeting with EWO (Education Welfare Officer) Treasa Toner took place on Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Nov to discuss actions/follow up. 5 sets of letters were sent home on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November to relevant parents.
- Daily phone calls continue and call outs when necessary (6 call outs on Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Nov). Class Average Attendance and Whole School Tables completed: 93.4% for September (Similar to Sept 2020) and 91.3% for October 2021 (Lowest whole school attendance for Oct in 8 years).
- Attendance was marked in accordance with DE Guidelines.
- Anti-Bullying Week took place on 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- All staff updated on Risk Assessments. Latest updates agreed at SLT on 9th Nov 2021 - Staffrooms: Previously 2 staffrooms now changed to main staffroom only from Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021. Parents will be brought in for individual meetings (Attendance, Underachievers etc. if necessary) and Break time and lunch time Book Clubs started.

## **CROSS COMMUNITY**

- Gained funding from Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) to purchase wireless access points and some Ipads in collaboration with Glenwood Primary School.
- Cross Community trips & activities remained on hold with hope of restarting in Academic Year 21/22.

## **PARENTS/ COMMUNITY**

- School App, Twitter & Facebook used daily to keep parents/ families updated.
- Class Apps used for remote learning and teacher/parent contact.
- Parent/ Teacher interviews were carried out digitally using class apps.
- New School Bulletin continued to be uploaded onto School App weekly by Mr Curran.