



# Holywell Educate Together National School Board of Management

## Annual Report 2020/2021



## **Board of Management Members 2020/2021**

<i>Chairperson</i>	–	Denis Brennan
<i>Treasurer</i>	–	Carolyn Barnes
<i>Secretary</i>	–	Maria Boyne
<i>Teacher Representative</i>	–	Sylvia O'Halloran
<i>Parent Representatives</i>	–	Paul Murray ( <i>elected following Brian Murphy's resignation</i> ) Federica Andriani
<i>Community Representatives</i>	–	Vincent Connolly Gráinne Mc Kenna ( <i>on maternity leave</i> )

The Board of Management had seven meetings this year (an average of two meetings per term).

### **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 2020.

Anti-bullying Policy reviewed in November 2020.

### **Policy Development & Review**

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended.
- Anti-bullying Policy reviewed.
- New Admissions Policy comes into effect from January 2021.
- Covid19 Response Plan (in line with HSE/NPHET/DES guidance & advice) is amended five times throughout the year.
- Digital Learning Plan and Remote Learning Plan
- Career Break Policy for Teachers
- Job-sharing policy for Staff Members
- Policy Document on the Management of Teachers' Budgets
- Credit Card Policy
- Policy on the Continual Professional Development of Staff in Holywell ETNS

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

Due to the restrictions imposed on the school due to covid 19, many events and activities could not take place as normal.

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

The Student Council were elected this year under the guidance and support of Assistant Principal Eileen Gamble. Senior Student Council members from 6<sup>th</sup> class were:

Sophia Guildea

Natalia Pyrka

Daniel Manasejev

Maddox Winters-Flaiani

The annual 'Winter Concert' took place in December and 'Holywell's Got Talent' took place in June. Both events were recorded and broadcast on the remote learning platform 'classdojo'. Children in senior classes took part in the 'Young Chef of the Year programme' where some classes learned about nutrition, basic cooking skills and kitchen safety.

A school photography competition took place in February during the period of remote learning to motivate children again with their learning.

The school held a poetry competition in April on the theme of 'feelings' and the winners were chosen by the Student Council.

### **School Achievements**

The school applied for the renewal of its Active Flag. Events such as the Daily Mile, the School Walk, Sports Days and an outdoor disco took place outside in line with public health advice. Holywell ETNS was successful in becoming part of the 'Nurture Schools' project with Educate Together using the approaches of the Nurture Approach and Trauma Informed Care in Education. Holywell ETNS became a member of the Restorative Practice Learning Community with the network of other schools.

Children in classes Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class won the 'Highly Commended' award in the 'Different Families Same Love' INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group competition.

The school was awarded a book grant of €500 to spend on books of different languages as part of the 'International Books' multi-lingual programme.

### *Tours & Outings*

Due to the limitations imposed by the pod and bubble system in the school, only children in Fiona L., Michelle and Rob's classes could go on a trip. They went on separate days to Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan.

The 'Nurture Group' who belong to the same bubble visited Newbridge House, Donabate as part of their end of year treat.

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

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) requested that the school open a 4<sup>th</sup> class for students with autism. All 6 places were offered to children already enrolled in mainstream. In May 2021, the Department of Education approved funding for the permanent building of the new class and associated facilities.

Staff have registered our school for the 'Autism Friendly' school project with 'AsIAm'. Staff have attending workshops and upskilling on various aspects of creating an 'autism friendly' school here in Holywell ETNS.

### **Curricular Development**

#### *Digital Learning*

The roll-out of 'classdojo' for all classes as an online learning platform was reinforced along with the schools' remote learning plan during the period of remote learning from January 11<sup>th</sup> to the various class re-openings from February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021.

Staff completed continual professional development through many webinars in different Education centres around the country.

### **Emergency Works/Buildings**

An application under the Emergency Works scheme has been made for replacement of lighting and emergency lighting in the school.

The school are commencing the design and build phase of the construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> class for children with autism.

### **Staffing**

Career Breaks 2020/2021: Joshua Jacob, Mary Comiskey & Clíona Malone (with Clíona available for substitution work throughout the school year).

Job-share arrangements 2020/2021: Eimear Heron & Eileen Gamble, Aoileann Quinlan & Louise Ryan and Leisa Coughlan & Jennifer Sheehan.

There were 44 teachers and 28 Special Needs Assistants on staff. The school welcomed two new permanent teachers: Kevin Morris & Sarah Howard.

Teacher Paul Glennon resigned to take up a new position as principal of Sallynoggin ETNS.

Mark Lawless was appointed as Assistant Principal I in September 2020.

Eddie Sweeney was appointed as Assistant Principal II in March 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

PTGA provided daily refreshments to class during Active Week

PTGA funded the DJ for 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation evening.

Members of the PTGA and Swords Tidy Towns also helped out in the local Holywell Clean-Up Day, and were a great help in helping tidy the school grounds.

Due to the restrictions imposed due to covid19 to safeguard health and safety, parental-run activities and events did not take place this year.

Parents supported school initiatives with the following:

Establishment of a Holywell ETNS Parent's Faith Formation Committee led by Anne Marie Kiernan and a group of other parents.

Parents group who attended the Restorative Practice webinar from 'Connect' organised by Mark Lawless.

'Webwise'- Internet Safety Talk for Parents

Transition to Second Level from 6<sup>th</sup> class- for 6<sup>th</sup> Class parents.

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. In particular, during the period of remote learning, the Board would like to acknowledge the tremendous and significant efforts made by the staff during this exceptional time. The staff used innovative and creative ways to provide both academic and emotional support for children and their families at a very difficult and distressing time.

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 and anxiety and we appreciate the great achievements made in homes to maintain continuity of learning during the pandemic.

We received valuable support from parents this year, despite the many changes we introduced to the school to reduce the risk of covid19 amongst the school community.

Different opening & closing times, new and specific entrance and exit doors to access and the 'Return to School Declarations' are just some of the new measures we implemented which needed consistent home support. Thank you for the on-going assistance with this.

We would also like to thank the PTGA members who work tirelessly on behalf of the parents to support school staff in making the school a safe and welcoming school for the children.

We would like to wish everyone in the community of Holywell ETNS a safe and restful summer and hope the landscape for the new school year will be a brighter, more positive one for our school community.

**School re-opens on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 8.30am.**