

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT END OF YEAR REPORT 2022/2023 OVERVIEW

Scoil Sinéad is a mainstream co-educational school with 51 pupils currently on roll, 8 teachers (including the principal), 11 SNAs and 1 part-time school secretary. In addition to three multigrade, mainstream classes, there are three A.S.D. classes.

Mission Statement

Scoil Sinéad N.S is a co-educational, multibelief primary school, which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed. Scoil Sinéad is founded on five guiding principles;

1. Inclusive Education
2. Multibelief and Co-educational
3. Rooted in the Community
4. Active Experiential Learning
5. Taking each student from where they are with great expectation.

The school strives to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of staff through staff development programmes. Scoil Sinéad encourages the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and the work of the HSCL teacher and through their involvement in Scoil Sinéad Parent's Association. Scoil Sinéad works to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupil's respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible. Our unity of purpose as a school community promotes equity and inclusion for all and is manifest in our school motto where we show that, déanfaimid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt. The school motto is: 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' – 'There is no strength without unity'.

Board of Management Members 2022/2023

Andrew Gelling – Chairperson & patrons nominee
Jeanmarie Thompson – Patrons nominee
Marianne Henry - Principal & Secretary to the BOM
Mary Carpenter – Teachers nominee
Edel Devine – Parents nominee
Daniel Brennan – Parents nominee
Felicia Dejioco – Community nominee
Cllr. Anthony Connaghan – Community nominee & incoming treasurer

The Board of Management met on 24/10/2022, 14/12/2022, 12/01/23 (brief teleconference) and 13/07/2023

The following are examples of some of the activities and initiatives that have taken place within the Scoil Sinéad school community from September 2022 - August 2023.

Initiatives Sporting and Extra- Curricular Events

- Music, Art, and Language returned as private after school activities using the school facilities.
- Music classes facilitated by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann (Finglas Branch) for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th class children took place weekly throughout the year.
- Swimming classes were facilitated for all students in every class during the spring term
- Outings in support of experiential learning, including Aistear included the Zoo, Outdoor Activity Centre Redhills, trips to playgrounds, the post office, the supermarket, the vet's, the garda and fire stations and a visit by an ambulance.
- 15th to 23rd October - Maths Week
- 26th October– Coffee Morning with HSCL to explore supports needed by families
- 28th October – Winter Fun Day & Walk
- 7th to 11th November – Parent Teacher Meetings First Round
- 19th Feb to 25th Feb 2023 Engineers Week

- 2nd March – World Book Day and the initiation, with the support of Finglas Library, 6 different Book Clubs. Huge thanks to Mrs. Doyle our SET.
- 27th to 31st March 2023 – Wellbeing/Friendship Week
- Participation in the Texaco National Childrens Art Competition
- Participation in the 25th Anniversary project of DES regarding the Good Friday Agreement
- Hearing and vision screening for junior and senior infants
- Vaccinations given to junior infants
- Charity Day was held on 27th March 2022. €241 was donated to the Irish Cancer Foundation. Particular thanks to school secretary Grace McDonnell who organised the yellow ribbons for the fence
- April 24th – 26th Earth day and celebrating Biodiversity
- Renowned photographer Valerie Raney gave an afternoon each week over the summer term to teach the senior children about Digital Imagery and it's uses. This cross curricular project culminated in an exhibition launched on 21st June 2023. This exhibition will proceed to be shown by Dublin Public Libraries in Autumn Winter 23/24.
- The official inauguration of the refurbished building took place on 21st June 2023 by Cllr. Anthony Connaghton and was attended by many in the community including the Architectural team involved, local principals, Deputy Paul McAuliffe and all families.
- All classes went on school tour , 3 classes to Emerald Park, 2 to Caragh Open farm and 1 to Bowling
- Religious Celebrations and Ceremonies – this year the classes marked Winter/Summer Solstices, all seasons changing, Eid al Fitir, Eid al Hada, Haunakka, Passover, Christmas, Kwansa, Easter, St. Brigids Day, St. Patricks Day, Cahitra Navrati. The Catholic Children also had the joy of First Penance and First Eucharist which was held on 19th May. 20 children received the sacraments.
- Fire Safety Fire Drill held each term with each class and whole school fire drill held in the final term. The Fire alarm was serviced quarterly and fire extinguishers also received their annual service. ●
- A plan has been developed for creating a playground and the procedures are underway to seek approval and sanction. It may not be popular or possible as this is a shared campus, however we are grateful for the continued support of Finglas Celtic permitting us to use the all weather pitch.
- An air purifier for each classroom purchased and installed to encourage good ventilation.
- 5 new interactive whiteboards and supporting laptops were purchased to enhance teaching and learning.
- New Maths resources purchased
- New Aistear resources purchased for use Infants and Early years
- Parents' Association has not been active this academic year. The Board of Management recognises and appreciates the potential impact of an active PA and looks forward to supporting it's re-launch next year.
- Uniform exchange was organised by independent parent volunteers on last day of school with some success. The BOM would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ms. McDermott, Ms. Kavanagh and their wish to run the initiative again in late August.
- Investment by the school in Aladdin connect and Seesaw has led to enhanced communication with the school community and the Finglas School Completion Project.

Courses Attended

- Sustained School Support received from the P.D.S.T. in the new Primary Language Curriculum. Working with a facilitator and online learning, the staff of the school worked throughout the year to embed the Primary Language Curriculum. Staff engaged with three webinars during the year (webinars 4,5 and 6 of the Primary Language Curriculum).
- All staff received updated training and re-qualified in MAPA over 5th/6th January 2023.
- Training was undertaken during a school closure on 5th June in the new Curriculum Framework and staff have worked to develop a planning framework going forward
- Staff received school support in Behaviour Support from Dr. Niall Switzer of NCSE/SESS who visited the school and worked with all three ASD class teachers on April 28th. This followed on from Ms. Maher, Ms. Murray and Ms. Bonilla attending the intensive training in Education Centres in Laois and Mayo in relation to the newly published guidelines of good practice in supporting ASD.

- Ms. Powell was conferred with a 2:1 Masters Degree in Special Educational Needs at DCU and Ms. Murray with 2:1 PME and the Board would like to congratulate both on their trojan efforts and is proud to have supported them. Congratulations also to the 2 team members successfully probated by the schools PST in the Droichead programme.
- Mr. Armstrong was fully trained in Maths Recovery

Inspection

The BoM was pleased to receive the report in November of the Inspectorate after their follow-up inspection of a Curriculum Evaluation. It was pleased that the Child Protection procedures were found to be as required and that the Anti-bullying policy was in place and published. It noted the comments by the Inspectorate of good progress in relation to supporting Behaviour Management for enhanced learning, whole school planning and policy development for enhanced teaching and learning experiences and outcomes. It notes the partial progress in support for children with SEN due to the difficulties of recruiting teachers.

Covid 19

The school continued to adopt and implement the Covid-19 Response Plan issued by the Department of Education. The school had procedures in place to ensure the implementation of the Response Plan. While the response to the pandemic is changing, the work this year saw the purchase and installation of paper towels and soap dispensers with a contract for hygiene supplies being sorted. Masks, wipes and other essential P.P.E. was purchased to enhance hygiene and ensure the health and safety of our staff and children. The Department of Education has eased the directive in relation to mask wearing and these are no longer required. The cleaner was employed for additional cleaning hours each week. A deep clean of the school was undertaken prior to staff and students returning in September 2022.

Policies and School Plans Reviewed and Ratified

- Child Protection -Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- Antibullying Procedures and policy
- Health and Safety Statement
- Admissions Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Assessment Policy
- Administration of Medicines Policy
- Acceptable User Policy
- Homework Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Photographs and Filming Policy
- Students who cannot attend policy
- Complaints Policy
- Home-School agreement
- Uniform Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Swimming Policy
- School Tour Policy
- SEN Policy
- SNA Policy
- Supervision Policy
- End of Year Report for the school year 2022/2023

The Board of Management of Scoil Sinéad has reviewed a) Pupil Attendance and b) Standardised Test Results The School accounts have been audited and submitted to the FSSU in line with DES guidelines.

In conclusion The Board of Management wishes to acknowledge the commitment of staff, the support of the parents/guardians and the enthusiastic co-operation of the pupils who work together to make Scoil Sinéad a centre of excellence in inclusive primary education. The Board wishes to commend the staff,pupils and parents for their exceptional efforts this year.