

# **Annual Report on the work of the Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S. 2020-2021**

## **Introduction:**

The current Board of Management of Ballyfacey N.S. is in year two of a four year term which began at the end of November 2019. The Board manage the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to him and the Minister for Education. The Board must uphold the ethos of the school. The Principal is responsible for the daily management of the school, including staff management and in turn is accountable to the Board.

The Board has eight members: two members from the patron, two community representatives and two parent nominees. The Principal has a place on the Board along with one teacher nominee.

The Board is responsible for the efficient use of funds, having the building equipped and in good order and repair. It arranges the employment of teaching and ancillary staff. It is involved in and responsible for school planning, delivery of the curriculum, school policies, health and safety issues and child safeguarding.

The Board met on regular occasions during the school year 2020-21. All members made frequent and important contributions which have helped the Board to carry out work smoothly.

A report on how the school is meeting its child safeguarding obligations was made by the Principal at each Board meeting as per Department of Education Guidelines.

A comprehensive Treasurer's report was given at all meetings and great efforts are made to use our financial resources wisely and for the best benefit of the pupils and curriculum delivery.

## **The current members of the Board of Management are:**

**Fr. O' Toole P.P. - Chairperson**  
**Tommie O' Gorman - Principal/ Board Secretary**  
**Ciara Spencer – Teachers' Nominee**  
**Margaret Boyle - Parents' Nominee**  
**Enda Keogh - Parents' Nominee**  
**Geraldine Roche - Patron's Nominee and Treasurer**  
**Frankie Kirwan - Community Nominee**  
**Mary O' Connor - Community Nominee**

## **Issues dealt with:**

1. Child Safeguarding including Garda Vetting requirements.
2. Covid 19 return to school protocols, policy, risk assessment and monitoring of same throughout the school year. Policies were adjusted at times in line with public health advice as well as directives from the Department of Education.
3. School extension oversight – project work is ongoing with completion due prior to return for the new school year at the end of August 2021.
4. Enrolment of new pupils.
5. School Security.
6. Health and Safety issues including maintenance and repairs.
7. Revision of curricular plans.
8. Policy creation and review.
9. Facilitation of whole-staff Language Curriculum In-service.

10. Literacy and Numeracy development and standardised testing assessment.
11. Staffing arrangements and appointments.
12. School Insurance and 24 hr Pupil Insurance.
13. Attendance.
14. IT Resources and advances.
15. School finances and financial planning including transfer of school accounts to Patron and Financial Support Services Unit of Dept. of Education.
16. School Calendars of events and holidays.
17. RSE talks provided to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th class.
18. Heritage council guest speaker sessions for all classes.
19. School Reports including mid-year reports in lieu of Parent-teacher meetings due to Covid 19 public health advice..
20. Relevant Contracts Tax and ROS online revenue payments system.
21. Energy Saving measures - SEAI monitoring annual report given.
22. Training of Ancillary staff.
23. Training course for Board Members.
24. October returns to Department of Education for capitation grant purposes.
25. Purchase of furniture and school equipment.

The Board put in place a huge number of protocols and procedures prior to the beginning of the new school which included increased cleaning hours and supplies, chlorination of the school water supply and the addition of increased hand washing and sanitising facilities throughout the school.

The school year 2020-21 was heavily impacted by Covid-19 and the Board wishes to thank all families for their support and due diligence in relation to Covid-19 guidance and monitoring of symptoms. The whole school community embraced the attitude of everyone being in this together and it is through this shared attitude that the school managed to operate as effectively as could be hoped for during the pandemic.

The pupils are thanked for their learning efforts and their co-operation with fellow pupils and staff alike.

The Board also extend their gratitude to the Parents' Association who year-on-year, carry out great work for the benefit of the school. This year has been a very difficult one for our Parents' Association in terms of being limited in what they could do but please God the new school year will bring with it the opportunity to get back to more Parents' Association activities.

The Board wishes the pupils who have left for secondary school every blessing for their futures.

Ballyfacey N.S. Board of Management is happy to serve the school and wider community and promises to continue to work hard to meet its obligations and stay always within its remit, supporting the children through offering a safe learning environment and effective staff. The Board welcomes the support it receives from the parent body and hope that this account gives an understanding of the role it has and the amount of work it does.

Signed: James O'Leary

Chairperson

Date: 21/12/21

Signed: Tamara O'Gorman

Principal

Date: 21/12/21