

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Board Composition:

Ms. Ú. O'Donnell (Chairperson)
Mr. H. Crowley
Rev. Fr. P. Fogarty
Mr. C. McCarthy
Mr. P. Mc Kelvey
Ms. C. Murphy/Ms. A. Geary
Ms. L. O'Donoghue
Ms. A.M. O'Mahony
Ms. V. O'Mahony
Cllr. M. Shields
Mr. P. Burke (Secretary)

Board of Management meetings for the academic year 2017/2018 were chaired by the Cork ETB nominee to the Board, Ms. Úna O' Donnell. Board policy is that the position of Chairperson is rotated on an annual basis amongst the nominating bodies.

Impact of Education Cutbacks: *For the eighth year in succession, the Board considered the impact of national cutbacks in education at CCS on numerous occasions. The Board, while welcoming the lifting of the moratorium on Posts of Responsibility, continued to appeal for the lifting of the moratorium on non-teaching staff, especially in the areas of clerical officer and caretaking, thereby securing the quality of the education provision at the school.*

Despite the cutbacks, the Board was pleased to note that there was no loss in tuition time and that the full comprehensive education programme continued to be offered to all students at Carrigaline Community School; with the full range of option subjects available at all levels. The Board welcomes the positioning of 2 new senior cycle subjects on the curriculum for 2018/2019, namely Computer Science and Politics & Society In addition, the Board congratulated and thanked the staff of the school for their continued voluntary commitment to the diverse range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities available to the student cohort.

Finance: *In line with previous practice, the Board considered all major aspects of school finances at each meeting throughout the year. The Finance sub-committee of the Board, comprising of Chairperson Ms. U. O' Donnell, Bishop's nominee Mr. H. Crowley & Mr. P. Burke, reviewed all school accounts in detail at a Finance sub-committee meeting in springtime. Ms. O'Donnell and Mr. Crowley complimented the Principal on his work in maintaining the school accounts. The extension of the Financial Support Services Unit to assist Community Schools in delivering their responsibilities in relation to financial matters was welcomed*

School Policies: *The Board continued its previous practice of reviewing school policies on an on-going basis. The CCS Code of Behaviour and AUP (Acceptable Use Policy in ICT) were reviewed and adopted*

by the Board of Management. Policies were recently adjusted to address the impact of the world of social media and cyber bullying. New guidelines in relation to the reporting of Child Protection matters have been adopted by the Board.

The Board annually reviews the whole school approach to countering bullying. Key components of the policy involve student and parent seminars on the theme of bullying, an 'anti-bullying awareness week / Respect for All Week' for students and the distribution of information leaflets to all students and parents on the anti-bullying policy at CCS. In addition, information leaflets concerning the '**World of Social Media**' devised by the CCS e-learning committee were circulated to all homes. All students and parents were provided with an opportunity to participate in 'Anti-Bullying' Seminars during 2017/2018. The School Principal updates the Board of Management on issues related to bullying.

Academic Achievement: The Board congratulated the students and teaching staff on the excellent standard of student academic achievement, culminating in highly successful Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Certificate examination results.

The Board was pleased to note that the excellent standards were recognised through University Student Scholarships.

School Inspections @ CCS: The DoES Inspectorate continued to work in partnership with the school in 2017/2018. CCS participated in an Incidental Inspection towards the end of the academic year. The Board welcomed the support of the Inspectorate and its recognition of the high standards of Teaching and Learning across the whole school.

Staff In-Career Development: The 2017/2018 academic year continued to be dominated by a strong staff focus on **School Self Evaluation and Professional Development**. Vibrant Literacy, Numeracy and TEL Sub-Committees formed from the teaching staff and co-ordinated by 'link' teachers facilitated this in-career development programme. Further progression with SSE will continue in 2018/'19.

A number of staff members are involved with the Instructional Leadership Programme which aims to continuously improve the standard of teaching and learning across schools in the country. This is part of the school improvement process.

Large numbers of teaching staff continued to participate in national in-service training for the delivery of new curricular material. Staff also participated in the National Induction Programme in Teacher Education. Regular school based in-service continued, focusing on Special Education Needs / Autism and on using ICT in teaching and learning.

Health & Safety: The Board is keenly aware of its responsibilities under the Health, Safety & Welfare at Work Acts. In addition to a major review of the **CCS Health & Safety Statement & Policy**, an annual 'Hazard Audit' is undertaken by all staff at the commencement of each academic year. A comprehensive 'Fire Evacuation' protocol is in place in CCS, with year group evacuations carried out during induction at the start of each academic year, followed by a full fire evacuation of the school community.

- **Child Protection:** The Board renews annually the nominations of the Principal, Mr. Paul Burke as the Designated Liaison Person, and the Deputy Principals, Ms. Sinead Tarrant and Ms. Tracey Kennedy as Deputy Designated Liaison Persons in respect of Child Protection. The

Board has an item on 'Child Protection' on the agenda for each meeting in line with best practice as recommended in the 'Child Protection Guidelines'.

- *HPV & TDap Vaccinations: The Board was pleased to note that the HSE Vaccination programme continued at CCS during 2017/2018. First year students participated in the vaccination programme this year.*

Gaelcholáiste Carraig Uí Leighin: *The Board spent a large amount of time during the year dealing with a request from Cork Education and Training Board, co-trustee of CCS, to locate temporary accommodation on the grounds of CCS for the students and staff of Gaelcholáiste Carraig Uí Leighin. Many meetings were held with various stakeholders over the course of the year which culminated in Cork ETB's planning application withdrawal for the proposal.*

Parents' Association: *The Parents' Association continued to play a central role in the life of the school during 2017/2018. The AGM took place in the school in autumn, with Ms. Roisín Mehigan chairing the Association for the academic year. The Association has a web presence on www.carrigcs.ie The Parents' Association worked in partnership with the Board of Management in supporting the induction of new First Year students and in supporting families in need during the return to school process. The challenges posed by social media and cyber bullying were addressed jointly by the Parents' Association and the Board of Management during the year.*

Students' Council: *The Student Council continued to play a vibrant role in the life of the school during the year. President, Joe Bosonnet, was elected by the student population in early autumn. The Council was centrally involved in a variety of fund raising activities during the year. The Council also played a major role in the induction of in-coming First Year students.*

2017/2018 ~ Another Successful Year

As the academic year concluded, amongst the highlights of the year were:

- *Another very successful programme of Adult & Continuing Education continued throughout the year.*
- *Highly successful Annual Awards & Principal's Awards Ceremonies.*
- *All Transition Year students participated in another very successful Scifest competition.*
- *Transition Year students also participated in a wonderful TY Ball.*
- *Highly successful Student Exchange programmes with Lycees St. Martin, Rennes, Gymnasium Norf, Germany & Fairport High School, Rochester, USA*
- *A very successful ski trip during February mid-term break*
- *An excellent inaugural Geography field trip to Iceland*

- *Charitable fund-raising for the Children's Ward in CUH. Annual fund-raising in December for St. Vincent De Paul raised almost €7000 which was donated to the Carrigaline and Ballygarvan Chapters for Christmas 2017.*
- *Further enhancement of ICT facilities to assist teaching & learning in the classroom – the Board acknowledges the continued financial support from the DoES for this important section of school life.*
- *Continued success in a diverse range of extra and co-curricular activities*

Signed *Date*
Principal

Signed *Date*
Chairperson