

CARRIGALINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



Board Composition:

Ms. V. O'Mahony (Chairperson)
Mr. H. Crowley
Rev. Fr. P. Fogarty
Ms. Ú. O'Donnell
Mr. R. Bateman
Cllr. B. Dalton
Ms. R. Mulcahy
Ms. R. Mehigan
Mr. A. O'Leary
Mr. J. Lyons
Mr. P. Burke (Secretary)

Board of Management meetings for the academic year 2020/2021 were held online and were chaired by the Bishop's nominee to the Board, Ms. Valerie O'Mahony. Board policy is that the position of Chairperson is rotated on an annual basis amongst the nominating bodies.

The Board of Management, throughout the year, was pleased to note that a full comprehensive education programme continued to be offered to all students at Carrigaline Community School (in spite of issues relating to Covid-19), with the full range of option subjects available at all levels.

Covid-19: *In line with government advice, schools fully re-opened at the start of the 2020 / 2021 academic year under stringent Covid-19 restrictions. A huge amount of work was undertaken by the Senior Management Team and ancillary staff during the summer months in order to make the school environment as safe as possible for returning staff and students. The Board of Management commended the Principal, Deputy Principals and all the staff for ensuring that the school re-opened. The Board acknowledged the significant funding made available by the Department to the school in relation to Covid 19 preparations. The Board also expressed gratitude to the Principal and Finance Officer for their handling of the extra Covid funding received throughout the year. Board meetings were held remotely throughout the academic year and all supports possible were given to staff and students in an attempt to maintain a good level of teaching and learning. The Board commended the staff also on their handling of the predicted grades process for the Leaving Certificate students of 2021.*

Some of the key issues caused by Covid -19 restrictions:

- *Total timetable re-structure to meet the requirements of social distancing*
- *Staggered break times to minimise student movement*
- *Restrictions on school tuck shop purchasing*
- *Enhanced cleaning regimes*
- *Cancellation of extra-curricular activities, field trips, student exchanges, etc*
- *Major increase in the use of technology for meeting purposes (Zoom, Google etc)*
- *Establishment of 2 Lead Worker representatives for Covid -19 related issues*

Finance: *In line with previous practice, the Board considered all major aspects of school finances at each meeting throughout the year, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee. A significant increase in funding was seen due to Covid -19 supports in areas such as minor works, personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning and supervision. Full year accounts under the guidance of the Financial Services Support Unit were prepared for the year ended 31st August 2021.*

School Policies: *The Board continued its previous practice of reviewing school policies on an on-going basis. The Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the stakeholders at CCS as is required. Other policies adopted/reviewed during the year included the Code of Behaviour; AUP (Acceptable Use Policy in ICT); Relationships & Sexuality Education; Anti-Bullying; Dignity in the Workplace; CCTV; GDPR and Admissions Policy.*

The Board annually reviews the whole school approach to countering bullying. Students and parents are provided with an opportunity to participate in 'Anti-Bullying' Seminars. The School Principal updates the Board of Management on issues related to bullying on a termly basis. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy will be reviewed and updated (where necessary) at the beginning of the next academic year.

Academic Achievement: *The Board congratulated the students and teaching staff on the excellent standard of student academic achievement, albeit in very different circumstances this year.*

School Inspections @ CCS: *The DoES Inspectorate continued to work in partnership with the school in 2020/2021, on a restricted basis. The Board welcomed the support of the Inspectorate and its recognition of the high standards of Teaching and Learning across the whole school and its' compliance with Covid -19 guidelines.*

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 Risk Assessment is undertaken by all staff at the commencement of each academic year. A thorough review of health and safety has been conducted by the relevant post holder and Principal within the school which led to an updated H&S Statement / policy being published and approved by the Board. 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 Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person. The Principal, Mr. Paul Burke was the Designated Liaison Person and Ms. Lorraine Collins was the Deputy Designated Liaison Person 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 continue working with the HSE in relation to HSE Vaccination programmes.*

Parents' Association: *The Parents' Association continued to play a central role in the life of the school during 2020/2021 through the Board of Management due to Covid restrictions. In the absence of an AGM Ms. Niamh O' Brien continued as Chair of the Association for the academic year. The Association has a web presence on www.carrigcs.ie which will be developed further in the new academic year. 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 Covid times. President Eoin Doyle was elected by the student population. The Council was centrally involved in a variety of fund raising activities during the year where possible. The Council also played a major role in the induction of in-coming First Year students.*

Establishment of 3rd ASD class at CCS: *The Board of Management, in response to a request from the area SENO, agreed to establish a 3rd ASD class commencing September 2021. This was in response to the huge demand for places in the local area. The Board acknowledged the excellent work of all staff involved in the resource centre at CCS and continued to urge all schools to establish further ASD classes both locally and nationally.*

Signed Date
Principal

Signed Date
Chairperson