



Board of Management Annual Report for the school year 2024-2025

Board of Management 2023-2027

The new Board of Management is comprised of the following members:

Brian Mulvey	(chairperson)
Fr. Antony Arakal	(parish nominee)
Courtney Cunningham	(parent nominee)
David Dempsey	(secretary and principal)
Ger Keeley*	(treasurer and community nominee)
Cormac O'Shea	(teacher nominee)
Barry Walsh	(parent nominee)
Trína Walsh	(community nominee)

*Ger Keeley was appointed to the BoM in September 2024

2024-2025 full-time / part-time Staff

Teachers

1. David Dempsey (principal)
2. Sinéad Beirne
3. Aileen Branagan
4. Joan Brennan
5. Monica Bridge
6. Emma Browne
7. Brenda Callaghan
8. Niamh Campbell
9. Jennifer Coffey
10. Olivia Coomey
11. Mark Fogarty
12. Cathy Gorman
13. Jamie Headon
14. Ciara Heffernan
15. Amy Kelly
16. Shóna Leslie
17. Malvin Moloney
18. Ciana O'Brien
19. Emmet O'Mahoney
20. Breda O'Rourke
21. Ailish O'Shea
22. Cormac O'Shea (deputy principal)
23. Aoife O'Sullivan
24. Ciara O'Sullivan
25. Salma Ramadan
26. Elaine Ryan
27. Órla Wright

Brian Mulvey

SNAs

- Lisa Cunningham
- Deirdre Nolan / Emma Minihan
- Ann Corcoran
- Pauline Kenny
- Sandra Whelan
- Doreen Keyes

Ancillary Staff

- Susan Creggy (secretary)
- Paschal Murray (caretaker)

Staff Continuous Professional Development

- Staff took part in various CPD courses during summer holidays.
- CPD courses were taken up by various staff members during the year also.
- Whole-staff CPD was organised by the school on fire-safety, First-Aid, Team-teaching, music education, maths education, anti-bullying and other areas this year
- The DES organised school closures for training on the new Primary Maths Curriculum. These training closures will continue next year with the roll out of the new curriculum
- SNAs were provided with CPD from the Visiting Teacher for the Deaf

School organisation for 2025/2026:

- Class organisation for 2025/2026 will comprise of:
 - 2nd class - Cathy Gorman
 - 2nd class - Shóna Leslie / Elaine Ryan
 - 3rd class - Ciara Heffernan
 - 3rd class - Brenda Callaghan
 - 3rd class - Niamh Campbell + Sinéad Beirne
 - 4th class - Emmet O'Mahoney
 - 4th class - Emma Browne
 - 5th class - Aoife O'Sullivan
 - 5th class - Ciana O'Brien
 - 5th class - Malvin Moloney + Breda O'Rourke
 - 6th class - Cormac O'Shea
 - 6th class - Monica Bridge
 - 6th class - Jamie Headon
 - SET - Ciara O'Sullivan + Olivia Coomey
 - SET - Joan Brennan
 - SET - Ailish O'Shea
 - SET - Aileen Branagan
 - SET - Mary King
 - SET - Mark Fogarty
 - SET - Orla Wright / Jennifer Coffey
 - EAL - Amy Kelly

- As a result of DES allocations, a SET cluster has been agreed between Patrician Primary and Gaelscoil Mhic Aodha

SNAs

- Ann Corcoran
- Lisa Cunningham (part-time)
- Pauline Kenny
- Doreen Keyes
- TBC
- Sandra Whelan

Ethos

- Patrician Primary School is a Roman Catholic school under the patronage of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. A concerted effort is made to uphold, promote and celebrate the Catholic ethos of the school.
- Prayer is a part of daily life in the school and Religious Education is taught in all classes in the school
- The Sacraments of First Holy Communion, First Penance and Confirmation were prepared for and celebrated in our school this year.
- Catholic Schools Week took place in January 2025
- A Christmas Carol Service took place in December 2024
- Patrician Foundation Day was celebrated in February 2025
- The school mission statement and vision statement are both displayed in the front corridor
- The school continues to liaise with the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, as we take our lead from the Patronage of Bishop Denis Nulty

Admissions

- The Newbridge Parish Central Applications Committee (CAC) is no longer in operation as of September 2024.
- All school enrolments are processed directly through the school office or via our feeder school system with St Conleth's Infant School.

Finances

- A financial report is given by the treasurer at each meeting of the Board of Management.
- The school accounts are audited on an annual basis by Bagnall Molloy Accountants, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
- The annual set of school accounts were sent to FSSU (Financial Support Services Unit) in February 2025 as per government guidelines. These accounts were examined and ratified by the BoM beforehand.
- The school operates a Bank of Ireland business account, which requires dual approval for all transactions.

Child Protection

- The school Child Safeguarding Statement and accompanying Child Protection Risk Assessment were reviewed and re-ratified by BoM in Term 1 and published on school website
- DLP (Designated Liaison Person) is David Dempsey and DDLP (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) is Cormac O'Shea
- All staff have received training in child protection guidelines
- Child protection oversight documents are presented to BoM at each meeting
- BoM members have received online training in child protection responsibilities
- Stay Safe was taught in its entirety to 3rd and 5th class this year as per school policy

Parent Association, parental involvement and community participation:

Parent Association

- The AGM of the PA took place in October 2024
- All present were automatically elected onto the committee.
- The following were nominated as PA officers:
 - Leonie Conlon (co-chairperson)
 - Stacey Morning (co-chairperson)
 - Keelin Feeney (treasurer)
 - Marion Kingston (secretary)
- The Parent Association Constitution is agreed upon and is signed each year at the AGM.
- A full set of Parent Association accounts are annually made available for examination. All PA accounts are subject to audit along with the main school account. These accounts were approved at the AGM
- Several policies, including the child safeguarding statement and its review document, anti-bullying policy and its review document and others were examined by the PA during the year.
- The position of chairperson, secretary and treasurer will be put up for election again in September 2024.
- Other PA initiatives included: (This list is not exhaustive)
 - Cake sales
 - Book Fair
 - Christmas raffles
 - Principal for a Day
 - Helping organise duck race
- PA fundraising was centred around the Lotto initiative this year
- PA fundraising money was put towards the following: (This list is not exhaustive)
 - Sponsoring IT equipment
 - 6th class graduation gifts
 - School yard signs
 - Referee match fees
 - Skipping ropes for every child in the school
 - Ukuleles
 - Bus costs (including to Science Blast)
 - Charitable donations (Daffodil Day – Irish Cancer Society)
 - Materials for sewing club

Parental Involvement

- Parent-Teacher meetings took place in November 2024
- Regular communication was kept up with all parents/guardians who needed support. This level of support is something that we are very proud of in Patrician Primary.
- Weekly newsletter emails were an invaluable method of home-school communications
- A set of instructions was developed in 13 different languages, which help multi-national parents/guardians to use an app to read the school newsletter in their native language
- School Support Plan Meetings between parents/guardians and the SET team (Special Educational Teaching, formerly known as learning support / resource) took place continuously across the year via phone-calls and with some face-to-face meetings
- Report cards were sent to all parents/guardians in June 2025

Health and Safety / Building and Maintenance:

- Multiple renovations took place on the school building during summer 2024 and throughout the year
These included:
 - Upgrading to LED lighting fixtures
 - Associated electrical work
 - Reflooring several classrooms
 - General maintenance and repairs
 - Deep clean of school interior
- The Health and Safety committees at both Board of Management and staff level continues to ensure H&S compliance around the school
- Maintenance books and making management aware of upkeep are responsibilities of all staff
- Termly fire drills take place in the school
- Staff engaged with First Aid training in term 1.
- Renovation works will take place during summer 2025, including: flat roof renovations, further LED light installations, solar panel installations, general maintenance
- BoM are continuing to explore emergency works applications for replacing the tarmac in the carpark / front alleyway
- Both the principal and the Parent Association liaised with the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative and with local politicians on making drop-off and collection times safer for all children and their families

Policies

The following policies were ratified and/or reviewed by the BoM while being shared with the relevant school stakeholders as part of the consultation process:

1. Annual Child Safeguarding Statement
2. Annual Anti-Bullying policy
3. Cyberbullying policy
4. Admissions policy
5. Collection and Custody policy
6. GDPR policy
7. CCTV policy
8. Acceptable Use policy
9. Physical Intervention policy
10. Annual Health and Safety Statement
11. Bí Cineálta policy
12. School Premises Hire policy

A five-year timetable for regular review of all policies is included in the School Plan.

Initiatives/projects to enhance teaching & learning (this list is not exhaustive)

- Whole-school educational initiatives:
 - Building Bridges comprehension scheme
 - Word of the Day
 - Visual timetables and whole-school visual support plan
 - Whole-school Gaeilge Labhartha plan
- 2nd class induction visits
- School tours
- 6th class graduation
- Various extra-curricular activities, including:
 - Hurling
 - Camogie
 - football
 - soccer
 - athletics
 - sewing club
 - Club Chonnla Phádraig (Irish club)
 - Band practice
 - choir
- Various in-school blitzes and competitions
- Active Schools Week
- Other themed weeks (e.g. Friendship Week, International Week, Maths Week etc.)
- Free Book Scheme
- Student Council
- Whole-school displays of geography, history and school identity
- Artist of the Month / Year awards
- Weekly principal awards
- ‘Say Yes to Languages’ project – senior classes received a block of Polish lessons
- Specialist tutors and guest speakers were organised for various whole-school activities, including:
 - Tag-rugby
 - Cycling
 - Irish dancing
 - Stepping Stones – 6th class transition to secondary school
 - Planetarium
 - ‘The Big Dig’ archaeology
 - Safety talks from local Gardaí

Assessment

- Assessment of Learning (AoL) and Assessment For Learning (AfL) happen in our school on a daily basis in a variety of formal and informal contexts.
- Standardised tests for our school include: (this list is not exhaustive)
 - Drumcondra Reading Test
 - Drumcondra Spelling Test
 - SIGMA T (maths)
 - NRIT (Non-reading intelligence test)

School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

- Our school continues to engage with SSE under the topic of maths 2024 / 2025. A School Improvement Plan has been developed as a result
- The school is continuously using the 'Looking At Our Schools' DES document to improve upon several areas of teaching, learning and management
- The SSE legislative review takes place at the first BoM meeting of each school year

Special Educational Teaching

- Student Support Files continue to be developed in the school for all children receiving SET hours (formerly known as learning support / resource)
- Multiple applications throughout the year have been submitted for Irish exemptions, assistive technology and other NCSE supports. Special Educational Teaching will continue to be a priority in the coming year
- Our SEN allocation for 2025/26 will be 5.5 SNA posts. Our EAL allocation will be 1.0 posts. Our SET allocation will be 6.9 posts
- A school-based summer programme for children with additional needs will be held in July 2025
- The school Nurture Room continues to support children with social and emotional needs
- Play Therapy sessions continue to be organised by the school for pupils on a priority needs basis
- The school continues to engage with NEPS and private psychologists to support children who need an educational assessment or a similar service
- The application process for an autism class will continue with the NCSE and local politicians

Note of thanks:

Much appreciation is due to the Patrician Primary Board of Management for their enthusiasm, support and hard work for the school that is all done in a voluntary capacity. The principal would like to convey his sincerest thanks for everything they have done for the school, its staff and most importantly for its children.

Note of condolence:

In many ways, it has been a difficult year in the Patrician Primary School community. We have lost past staff members, parents, siblings, past Board members and loved ones in a very short amount of time. It has been a testament to the school community how we have supported each other in the toughest of times. Many thanks are also due to our Parent Association and neighbouring schools, who helped us out when we needed it the most. Our continued condolences to the families who have lost a loved one this year. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you, and may those who have passed on rest in peace.