



## Whitecross N.S. Board of Management Annual Report 2021-2022

This report is issued in line with the requirements of the Education Act.

### Board Members:

Chairperson – Diarmuid Everard  
Treasurer – Paddy Prendergast  
Secretary – Patrick Doran  
Teacher Nominee – Nicola Finnegan  
Parent Nominee – Karen Quinn Markey  
Parent Nominee – Richard Kelly  
Patron's Nominee – Fr. Brendan Ferris  
Community Nominee – Georgina Brangan

### Ethos

Confirmation was celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 for the former 6<sup>th</sup> Class.  
First Holy Communion was celebrated on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Class.  
Confirmation was celebrated on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022.  
First Holy Communion was celebrated on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.  
A class set of bibles was purchased for the senior classes and the junior classes.  
The Grow in Love programme is being taught in all classes.

### Child Protection

Designated Liaison Person: Patrick Doran  
Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Margaret O'Reilly  
A Child Protection Oversight Report was presented at each meeting of the Board in accordance with DES guidelines.

### Parental Involvement

The Parents Association Committee is Valerie Sheridan (Chairperson), Caroline O'Neill (Secretary) & Barry James (Treasurer)  
Meetings of the Parents Association took place each month. The PA organised a Clothes Recycle, Pupil Accident Insurance, the First Communion Party, 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Party, Confirmation Party, Christmas Raffle. The PA aim to raise funds for murals and yard markings for the school.

### Staffing

The number of staff employed in the school increased this year due to the opening of two ASD classes.

<b>Permanent Teachers Appointed:</b>	<b>Temporary Teachers Appointed:</b>
- Jack Roche	- Rachel McGrath
- Niall Monaghan	- Maeve Magee
- Carina Byrne	- Rachel Murphy
- Rebecca Browne	- Soha Smyth
	- Sarah Molloy
	- Niamh O'Leary
	- Eva Cotter

The school employs 16 mainstream class teachers, 2 special class teachers, 5 SET teachers (one SET post is shared with St. Oliver's N.S. in Drogheda). An additional full-time teaching post was allocated to the school for CLASS hours.

The school employs 7.16 SNA's. Four new SNA's were appointed for the ASD classes.  
Two new bus escorts were employed.



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<b>Permanent SNA's Appointed:</b>	<b>Permanent Bus Escorts Appointed:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Olivia Lenehan</li><li>- Louise Kelly</li><li>- Clare O'Connor</li><li>- Sheila Lynam</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ellen Martin</li><li>- Sonia O'Callaghan</li></ul>

The school employs a part-time caretaker and a full-time secretary.  
There was one job share teaching arrangements in place.

### **Policy Development**

The Board ratified the following Policies:

- Child Safeguarding Statement & Child Protection Risk Assessment (Annual Review)
- History Policy
- Visual Arts Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy (Annual Review)
- Dignity in the Workplace Policy
- Safety, Health & Welfare Policy & Statement
- Maths Policy

### **School Inspector**

DES Inspector Niamh Quinn was assigned as the school inspector this year.

### **Curricular Development**

Sustained support from PDST was initially approved for the implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum. This was later cancelled due to the shortage of substitute teachers.

The Curricular areas prioritised for review by staff were: PE, Digital Learning, Science & Geography. The school closed for a half day in-service on the Implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> May and the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

The school is engaging with School Self-Evaluation and implementing the school improvement plan in Mental Maths.

### **Health & Safety**

The Board reviewed the Health & Safety Policy & Statement undertaking thorough risk assessments in the new school building. Procedures and protocols were revised and where necessary amended each term to ensure that safety was prioritised.

### **Building Projects**

The school reopened on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and this was a historic occasion as all of the mainstream classes moved into the new building. The Board would like to thank all staff, parents, past pupils and volunteers who assisted with moving into the new school.

The school opened two new ASD classes which are accommodated in temporary prefabs that were modified over the summer.

All staff and parents continue to access the new school through the church carpark as work to the staff carpark and front of the school is on-going.

Minor repairs and snagging were on-going throughout the year.

The school appointed a new Design Team for the permanent extension to accommodate the ASD classes.

### **Treasurer's Report**



## Whitecross N.S. Board of Management Annual Report 2021-2022

The financial management of Whitecross N.S. is conducted in strict compliance with Department of Education requirements. The Board of Management ensure the accounts are certified annually (School Year: September – August) by a certified chartered accountant. At each Board meeting a comprehensive financial report of all income and expenditure since the previous meeting is presented by the Treasurer to the Board for discussion and analysis. The close monitoring of expenditure is necessary as income continues to be limited to DES funding and therefore requires prudent financial management. Orla Tiernan, School Secretary looks after the day-to-day administration and computerisation of accounts with great efficiency.

Expenses in the 2021 -22 school year were difficult to predict and budget for as the running costs for the new school building were unknown. School insurance costs increased greatly and covid procedures requiring continuous ventilation in classrooms resulted in a major increase in the cost of light and heat. The expenses for this school year will provide a guide to facilitate more accurate budgeting in future years.

There was a significant improvement with almost full payment received for art & craft contributions.

A meal was held to thank Fr Declan & Emma Grufferty for their contribution to the Board.

The school invested significantly in purchasing PE equipment. The Parents Association made a contribution of €8000 towards this and the set-up of the ASD classes.

The Board has had to put plans on hold for the creation of a new football pitch until the permanent extension is built.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Due to covid procedures and some on-going building work within the school, after-school activities did not take place this year.

### **Community Links**

The Board wishes to acknowledge the wonderful support it receives from the local community in the form of input from various groups who help the school out on a regular basis, enriching our school programme and enhancing and maintaining our school grounds. This support is very much appreciated.

### **Special Events**

The school is planning on celebrating the official opening of the new school early next year.

In concluding our Annual Report for 2019 - 2020, 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 the school a safe, happy and secure learning environment. Míle Buíochas to all who helped make this year such a positive and productive one in Whitecross N.S.