



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594

Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash



Board of Management - Agreed Report October 2023

Recent meetings of the Board of Management were held on 28th August, 3rd October and 9th October 2023. The following is an agreed report to be circulated to all members of the school community.

The Board welcomed Fr. Stephen Kennedy as patron nominee to the Board, replacing Fr. Ciarán Clarke who has moved to a different parish in Meath.

Principal's Report

Mr. Kearins presented a report on various matters in the school on 3rd October 2023 including a Child Protection Oversight report and a periodic Anti-Bullying report.

Mr. Kearins also presented an annual report on leadership and management which includes a report on progress from all members of the In-School Leadership and Management team.

Retention of Planning Permission applied for on single prefab building.

Department of Education Summer programme

The Board congratulated all involved in the running of the school's Summer programme - feedback was very positive from all involved.

Policy and Curriculum Plan Review

- Whole School Curriculum plans for English, Science, Drama and History were reviewed and ratified by the Board.
- Homework and Admissions Policies were reviewed and ratified
- On 3rd October, the Board conducted its annual review of the Anti-Bullying Policy (notification published to whole school community)
- Relevant policies will be uploaded to the school website www.decsash.ie
- Child Safeguarding Statement: The Board reviewed Circular 36/2023 and formally adopted the updated 2023 procedures. The Board will use the updated templates when conducting the next review of the statement in March 2024.

Review of a range of organisational policies/curriculum plans was agreed by the Board.

- Annual review of Anti-Bullying policy, Code of Behaviour and Child Safeguarding statement and risk assessment
- Assessment policy,
- Critical incident policy,
- Behaviours of Concern/ Restricted Practices,
- Acceptable Use policy,
- Safety Health and Welfare statement,
- Data Protection Policy,
- Special and Inclusive Education Policy
- Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) whole school curriculum plan



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594

Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash



Financial Report

- The Treasurer presented a monthly report of income and expenditure for June, July and August 2023.
- 2022/2023 accounts will be certified by an accountant for submission to the Department of Education's Financial Support Services Unit as required.
- The Board also agreed budgets for various purposes for the coming year 2023/2024.
- The Board decided to make a financial donation to the local Crestwood/Garden City Residents' Association

School Self-Evaluation

The identified needs and priorities for the year include:

- Familiarising staff with the new Maths Primary Curriculum
- Further embedding Accelerated Reader in the school
- Improving learning and teaching in Gaeilge
- Improving wellbeing

An SSE report and School Improvement plan is being devised currently. This will be a 3 year plan setting out development work for the school in the above areas. Feedback will be gathered from all relevant stakeholders including staff, parents and children. School Development teams have been established including a Wellbeing team, Foireann na Gaeilge, STEM team and Accelerated Reader team to lead this important school development work.

Annual Admissions Notice

The Board agreed on the annual admissions notice which will be published in October 2023.

School Rental

All requests to rent the school building facilities are reviewed by the Board on a case by case basis. The response of the Board is communicated to individuals who applied.

Term of Board of Management 2019-2023

Mr. Kearins thanked all Board members for their voluntary service on the Board of Management over the past 4 years; Noel Curtin and Fr. Ciarán Clarke (Patron Nominees), Ciara Coote, Emma Curran and Séona Conway (who served consecutively as Teacher Nominee during the term), Tess Hayden and Niall McMahon (Parent Nominees) and Mary Prior and Gerladine Boylan (Community Representatives). In particular, Mr. Kearins thanked Mrs. Prior who has served two terms on the Board, the last four as treasurer. Special thanks and congratulations were extended to Mr. Noel Curtin for serving as Chairperson over the past 8 years. The Board guided the school through many successes and challenges and in particular the Covid-19 pandemic. The individual members have given so much to the school in a voluntary capacity and on behalf of the school community, we say a massive "go raibh míle maith agaibh".

The procedures for appointing the new Board of Management will be followed in accordance with the updated Governance Manual 2023 - 2027.