



Board of Management meeting
Monday, 17 September 2020
Report to the School Community

1. Opening Prayer - read by the Chairperson
2. Ethos Reflection

In advance of the meeting, the chairperson had circulated the following reflection:

Loreto Kilkenny has started back on its new academic year journey, after a very challenging half year of a COVID-driven lockdown.

In all the drama of getting going again, it is worth reflecting on the school ethos, and considering what the Board can do to support the school community to grow hope in these strange COVID times. How do we ensure that the school is a happy place, while supporting the teaching and learning agendas?

An interesting discussion ensued with the following the main comments/suggestions:

- Consult with the students
 - Award for students
 - Soccer tournament for other years
 - Impact of masks on students: not as bubbly, inhibited by masks
 - Staff interactions limited by loss of 'cup of tea' which could become very isolating and impacts on new members. Extra pressures on staff preparation for lessons.
 - Music - playing in common areas
 - Social committee: social distanced cup of tea
 - Wellness Wednesday/Feelgood Friday
3. Calculated Grades
 - The principal gave a report on the outcome of the Leaving Certificate 2020 Calculated Grades. It was reported that the results achieved in a general sense were very positive. The results reflected well on an excellent year group.
 4. Admissions Policy
 - Admission Policy - approved today by the Trust Board with amendment accepted.
 - The Admissions Notice for 2020 was approved by the Board as follows:

ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE

In respect of admissions to the 2021/2022 school year

Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the school's Admissions Policy and the Application Form for Admission for the 2021/2022 school year are available as follows:

- In the enrolment section of our website: www.loreto.kk.ie
- On request: email office@loreto.kk.ie or write to: Enrolments, Loreto Secondary School, Granges Road, Kilkenny, R95 W2NV.

Note that forms will be posted to those who have registered their details on our mailing list (in the enrolment section of our website).

PART 1 - Admissions to the 2021/2022 school year

Application and Decision Dates for admission to the 2021/2022 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the First Year class.

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	12 October 2020
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on (closing date)	5 November 2020
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is (offers will be posted on this date)	11 November 2020
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	19 November 2020

Note: please see our Admissions Policy in relation to late applications.

Special Class Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2021/2022 academic year.

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Special Class which caters for children with a Moderate General Learning Disability

The school will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on	12 October 2020
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on (closing date for applications)	5 November 2020
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is (offers will be posted on this date)	11 November 2020
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	19 November 2020

***Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn**

Number of places being made available in 2021/2022

The number of places being made available in first year is	180
The number of places being made available in the special class* catering for children with a Moderate General Learning Disability is	3

5. Child Protection Review

- The Board reviewed (using the Department of Education checklist) and adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- The Board appointed Colm Keher as Designated Liaison Person and Marie Therese Gallagher as Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

6. Recruitment 2020/2021

Details of four teachers recruited since the last meeting were given. The appointments were approved by the Board.

7. Correspondence

- Home Economics Inspection Report
 - i. The Board reflected on the report and agreed that it reflected very well on the Home Economics Department.
- School Safe Zone
 - i. Path from the set-down area in James's Park to the exit on the Granges Road to be explored.
 - ii. Monitor congestion vis-a-vis the new bus pick-up point.
- JMB Bulletins:
 - i. No. 10 - 13 were summarised

8. Review of Covid Reopening Plan

- The principal presented a summary of the positives and challenges of the plan. It was agreed that the use of Borrowbox as an alternative to the library would be explored.
- The Board was informed that Karan Murphy and Paula Farrell had been appointed as Lead Worker Representatives.

9. Parents' Association report.

- The first meeting was held over Zoom and 65 attended. Feedback was generally positive on the return to school. Queries focused on the issue of decanting/lockers/water bottles/timetables.
- It was reported that there was a €2210 balance in the PA account. Fundraising was to be a challenge during the covid restrictions and the PA would welcome any suggestions.
- The AGM would again take place over Zoom and take place in October.

10. Principal's Report - main items reported

- Senior Prefect Training
- Mentor training - 1st Year Mentor Programme
- Staff training - Covid Plan, Wellbeing/One-hour timetable/IT in the context of the return to school
- Opening year group assemblies had taken place via Zoom
- Opening Mass - again Zoomed from the oratory
- Evening study to start on Wednesday for 6th Years - and to be phased in from there
- Traffic management - St James's Park
- One-hour timetable - initial reports positive

11. Child Protection Report

- The monthly report from the principal was given, in accordance with Child Protection Guidelines.

12. Development Plan

- SEAI works commenced in late July with installation of insulation in the '300s' wing and solar panels. These works were finalised in late August. The installation of new windows commenced in mid August and C.55% of the job is complete. With school recommencing and uncertainty surrounding the reopening it was decided to postpone the later part of this task as classrooms are needed at the moment. Some works will be carried out on the weekend of September 27th (School closed on Monday) and the final aspect of the project during halloween when workers will have full access to the site.

13. Finance - including sports rental.

- Budget 2020/2021 - approved
- Final accounts 2019/2020 - nearing completion and should be ready for the next Board meeting.
- Voluntary Contributions down 30% on this time last year. This might be connected to the later than usual opening up of the payments portal but could potentially be a matter of concern as school finances are heavily reliant on contributions from parents.

14. Items and times for next meetings: the following dates were agreed for the first half of the year.

All meetings to take place at 7pm.

15 October

19 Nov

17 Dec

28 Jan

4 March

15. There being no other business, the report was agreed and the meeting was adjourned.



Colm Keher, Secretary.