

Plean Scoile

St Fiacc's NS

Annual Board Report  
2020-2021



St. Fiacc's N.S.  
Fírinne le Misneach

Signed Chairperson BOM

*Lia Dooley*

## Annual Board Report St Fiacc's NS 2020-2021

### 1. Introduction and Overview

St Fiaccs NS is a co-educational urban catholic school serving the Graiguecullen community. The school's enrolment presently stands at 564 pupils. It has 32 teachers comprising of an administrative Principal, 22 class teachers and 9 Special Educational Needs teachers. It shares 10 SET hours with Queen of the Universe NS. Mr John Brennan is the Principal of St Fiacc's, Miss Mary Fleming is Deputy Principal and Mr Pauric Bolton is Assistant Principal. In addition the school has five Assistant Principal 11 Post Holders. St Fiacc's has four Special Needs Assistants; a caretaker, three cleaners and a secretary. Miss Sheila Hanratty retired this year after 22 year's service at St. Fiacc's.

The academic year 2020-2021 marked the second year of coping with the Covid 19 Global Pandemic which resulted in the school closing in January and February 2021. The pupils were supported remotely through the platform SeeSaw and twice weekly Zoom classes. SEN pupils were supported through regular Zoom Calls. Households that had no access to Broadband or digital devices had hard copy work posted and were offered use of i-pads to support their learning. The schools Covid Response plan and Covid Risk Assessment were used to great effect to keep pupils, staff and parents safe for the remainder of the school year.

### 2. Mission Statement

Our school embodies Christian, Catholic values which emphasises compassion, care, good work ethos, striving for excellence and respect for all, irrespective of race, religion or social status.

*Fírinne le Misneach* is our school motto. It is written in Irish and translates as 'Truth with Courage'

### 3. Board Members & Number of Meetings

#### Members

John Brennan (Principal & Secretary), Fiona Payne (Teachers' Nominee), Liam Dooley (Chairperson and Safety Officer), Therese Sheehan (Patron's Nominee & Treasurer), Shirley Lidierth (Parent Nominee); Dermot Kinsella (Parent Nominee), Lillian Fogarty (Community Nominee), John Hovenden (Community Nominee)

The Board met 9 times this year. John Brennan underwent training on Child Protection and Independent Assessor training. Mr Brennan also completed a graduate Diploma in Education Law, part funded by the Board of Management.

### 4. Initiatives supported by the Board

#### Educational Projects

All protocols outlined in the Covid 19 Response plan and Covid Risk Assessment adhered to. The BOM wishes to acknowledge the excellent work of the staff of St. Fiacc's in ensuring a safe working environment for both staff and pupils.

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St. Fiacc's ran a Summer Inclusion programme for pupils with additional needs and pupils of disadvantage for two weeks in July. 27 pupils participated in the Programme.

### Curricular developments

- Plean Gaeilge
- Incorporating the language of the Primary Language Curriculum into planning and practice.
- Staff CPD on 9/12/2020 on Virtual map reading and outdoor games (PDST).
- Whole school use of SeeSaw and Zoom for remote learning.
- Whole staff inservice on 27/01/2021 on wellbeing and RSE (PDST).
- Participation in NAMER tests in May 2021.
- Staff followed agreed Action Plans for Curricular targets.
- Staff requirement of 36 Croke Park hours was fulfilled.

### Extra curricular activities and School Celebrations

Extra curricular activities were curtailed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The pupils of St. Fiacc's were still involved in a range of extra curricular activities including: Gaelic Football; Soccer; Basketball; athletics; Debating; Student Council; Greenschools; Trath na gCeist; Active schools; Scratch Programming; Irish Dancing; Tag Rugby

Other memorable occasions for St Fiacc's included St Fiacc's Got Talent; Christmas concert; Science/Maths Week; Active School's Days; Grandparents Day; La Glas. Many of these activities took place remotely but were enjoyable nonetheless.

### Living Our Ethos

Mr Pauric Bolton is responsible for Coordinating Religious Instruction Policy at St. Fiacc's and assisting with school mass preparation. Fr Dunphy, our school Chaplin, visited the school regularly. Prayer is a feature of school life both in class and at Friday Assemblies where designated classes lead the school in prayer and arrange thematic displays monthly in our school reception. The Liturgical seasons were marked with a Special Advent mass of giving; Catholic School's Week; distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. St Fiacc's also held a Start of Year school mass and end of year school mass and a three Graduation masses for the 6th classes.

The Liturgical seasons were celebrated during weekly school assemblies:

Oct Assembly Theme - The Rosary.

November Assembly Theme - In November We Remember;

December Assembly Theme- Advent.

January: Catholic Schools Week; Our Lady of Lourdes

February: St. Brigid; Lent

March: St. Patrick

April: Easter

May: Our Lady

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### Improvements to facilities

- St Fiacc's has been approved a €750,000 four classroom extension and a Special Class Unit. The Design Team met on 30/01/2020 and Drawings were agreed by Chair & Principal 12/02/2020. As the grant is insufficient for the scope of the works or Consultant MCOH has requested a review. We are still awaiting approval for our revised Stage 1 submission.
- Lino on corridors and classrooms sealed and buffed. Lino was laid in four additional classrooms
- Mesh fencing was installed along the school perimeter to secure the school grounds
- In May 2021 St. Fiacc's was included in the roll out of the Hot Meals Scheme. A dinner lady was hired and ovens were installed in the hall. Our pupils now enjoy daily hotmeals and fruit and carbohydrate snacks. Our supplier is Fresh Today.
- A fire drill took place on 02/09/2020 and 20/04/2021

### ICT Investment

- Promethean Panel x 3 installed.

### COVID - 19

The safeguards installed in 2020-2021 are still in place for September 2021.

### 5. Policies and procedures reviewed and ratified by the Board

Dignity at Work Policy	30/09/2020
Data Protection Policy	30/09/2020
Online Learning Policy	30/09/2020
Acceptable Use Policy	30/09/2020
School Attendance Policy	30/09/2020
Admissions Policy	30/09/2020
Custody and Separation Policy	16/12/2020
Covid 19 Risk Assessment	25/02/2021
Covid 19 Response Plan	25/02/2021
Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment	18/03/2021
Anti-Bullying Policy	18/03/2021
Anti-Cyberbullying Policy	18/03/2021
PE Policy	18/05/2021
Participation in Sport Policy	18/05/2021

### Policies to review next year:

- Gaelige
- Music
- Visual Arts

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- Drama
- Safety Statement/Covid Risk Assessment

### 6. School Self Evaluation

St. Fiacc's completed the SSE - Focus of the previous two years. The process was lead by the Principal and the ISM team. The focus was on teaching the Writing Genres using the Writing Process. Self-editing and Self Assessment were central to the SSE Process. Tracker Samples were analysed Termly by the ISM team and Reported back at Staff Meetings and Board Meetings. SSE has been diverted to focus on our new responsibilities in the light of Covid -19. We will continue to embed the writing process and writing genres while beginning our new SSE focus, Wellbeing, in 2021-2022.

### Attendance Rates 2020-2021

90.9%

**\*Our new AP II post holder will have responsibility for attendance.**

### Number of Pupils who missed over 20 days

2018-2019	2020-2021
93	103

Cases of detention 2020-2021
20

Cases of Bullying 2020-2021
0

Number of Pupils Suspended 2020-2021
4

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### 7. Confirmation

The Board has met its obligations in respect of Child Protection & Anti-Bullying procedures. John Brennan was ratified as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Miss Mary Fleming as Deputy DLP on 18/03/2021 and the Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted. The school accounts have been certified and submitted in accordance with FFSU guidelines.

### 8. Conclusion

The Board wishes to acknowledge the commitment of staff, the support of the parents/guardians and the enthusiastic cooperation of the pupils who strive to make the school a centre of excellence in Catholic primary education. The efforts made by the teaching staff and SNAs to engage pupils remotely during the Lockdown deserve special mention

**Table 1: Report of Aggregate Standardised Test Results in Mathematics**

Number of Students whose scores on a standardized test of mathematics fall within the following ranges in respect of tests undertaken in May 2021

	STen 1	STen 2	STen 3	STen 4	STen 5	STen 6	STen 7	STen 8	STen 9	STen 10	Total
2nd Class (2020)	3 (4%)	6 (8%)	5 (7%)	7 (10%)	7 (10%)	18 (25%)	14 (20%)	4 (6%)	4 (6%)	3 (4%)	71
4th Class (2020)	3 (4%)	11 (15%)	9 (13%)	16 (22%)	11 (15%)	14 (19%)	4 (6%)	1 (1%)	3 (4%)	0 (0%)	72
6th Class (2020)	4 (5%)	8 (11%)	14 (19%)	16 (21%)	10 (13%)	13 (17%)	5 (7%)	4 (5%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	75
Total 2020 / 2021	5%	11%	13%	18%	13%	21%	11%	4%	3%	2%	218
Normal distribution	2.3%	4.4%	9.2%	15.0%	19.2%	19.2%	15.0%	9.2%	4.4%	2.3%	

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**Table 2: Report of Aggregate Standardised Test Results in English**

Number of Students whose scores on a standardized test of English fall within the following ranges in respect of tests undertaken in May 2021

	STen 1	STen 2	STen 3	STen 4	STen 5	STen 6	STen 7	STen 8	STen 9	STen 10	Total
2nd Class (2020)	3 (4%)	5 (7%)	4 (6%)	11 (15%)	12 (17%)	11 (15%)	10 (14%)	8 (11%)	4 (6%)	3 (4%)	71
4th Class (2020)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	8 (11%)	12 (17%)	25 (35%)	13 (18%)	5 (7%)	5 (7%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	72
6th Class (2020)	1 (1%)	5 (7%)	8 (11%)	12 (16%)	16 (21%)	13 (17%)	14 (18%)	2 (3%)	4 (5%)	1 (1%)	76
Total 2020 / 2021	2%	5%	9%	16%	24%	17%	13%	7%	4%	2%	219
Normal distribution	2.3%	4.4%	9.2%	15.0%	19.2%	19.2%	15.0%	9.2%	4.4%	2.3%	2.3%

**SIGMA-T Averages 2021**

	2019	2021
Std Score	98	95
Overall Percentile	45	37
STEN	5	5
Skills - Percentage Correct		
Understanding Concepts & Facts	57%	54%
Performing Computations & Procedures	49%	45%
Solving Word Problems	40%	33%
Strands - Percentage Correct		
Number	51%	47%
Measure	47%	44%

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Shape & Space	52%	47%
Algebra	54%	50%
Data	50%	48%

**Drumcondra English Averages 2021**

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
SS (v)	101	100
Sten (v)	6	6
PR (v)	53	50
<b>Comprehension</b>		
SS (c)	100	98
Sten (c)	6	5
PR (c)	50	45
<b>Total</b>		
SS	100	99
Sten	6	5
PR	50	47



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Appendix A

**Professional Development undertaken by staff throughout 2020-2021 school year**

Custody & Guardianship Issues for Schools
Epilepsy Ireland Information Meeting
Back to School - Supporting Pupils with SEN
Using Seesaw in the Classroom/Remote Learning
NEPS : Planning Meeting
Autumn County Network Meeting:IPPN
NEPS: The Balanced Approach to Literacy Development in the Early Year – Day 1
Underperformance of Primary School Staff - MCH
Child Protection e learning Presentation Series for DLPs & DDLPs 2020
Child Protection e learning Presentation Series for DLPs & DDLPs 2020
NEPS: The Balanced Approach to Literacy Development in the Early Year – Day 2
Wellbeing Webinar for Primary Schools
NEPS: Word their Way (Spelling Programme)
PDST Literacy Webinar Series - Spelling and Word Study
Inclusion Through Team Teaching PDST - Zoom - Carmel Linehan PDST
RSE in Catholic Schools Kilkenny Education Centre Webinar
Religion Coordinator's Meeting Kildare/Leighlin Diocese Training
NEPS: Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers
Child protection E-learning PDST
NEPS: Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers Day 2
PDST Support for Physical Education (Liam Clohessy) - Virtual Orienteering

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Inspectorate Support for Principals; Barbara Collins
Nowhere to Hide: Why Data Protection Affects the Way Primary Schools Operate Confirmation MCH
Leading In Challenging Times; Clare Education Centre; Dr Joe O' Connell
Nurturing a Sense of Wellbeing in Challenging Times: Webinar
Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Students: a guide for school staff NEPS webinar - Laois Ed. Centre
Workshop - Introduction to Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice (Cohort 2); Zoom - Grainne Ni Ghradaigh; PDST
CPSMA Webinar Child Protection
Child Protection Obligations; Diploma in Education Law Online David Ruddy & Edel Kennedy
Understanding and Managing Conflict and Conflicting Situations Dr Joseph O' Connell; Zoom Wex Ed Centre
Independent Assessors Training; Noreen Lawlor & Miriam McCabe; Zoom/KANDLE
Preparation for Teaching and Learning- NCCA,NCSE & PDST Zoom Online
Namer Assessment Training; M Teams Online
Teaching Nature- Outdoor Learning; Wexford Ed Centre
NEPS: Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers. Day 1
NEPS: Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers; Day 2
Graduate Diploma in Education Law

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Appendix B

Summer Courses undertaken this Summer by Staff.

Athletic Development of Young People & Practical PE Ideas for Teachers
Enhancing Well -Being In the Classroom
STEM Champion
Music to my Ears: Guitar & the Music Classroom
Calm Bootcamp
Creating an LGBT+ Inclusive School
Working with children who have experienced trauma
The Special Education Teacher
Child mental health and promotion strategies in primary school
Literacy through the Arts
Climate Change, Science & Action
Yearly Schemes for First and Second
Gaeilge Phraicticiuil
Ciall Ceannaithe - Induction for Newly Appointed Principals
Literacy through the Arts
Struggling Readers
Practical strategies for Teaching and Learning in an ASD class

Annual Attendance Report: 119790

School

Roll Number

Reporting Period

19958C

20202021

Students Expelled

Students Suspended

Students > 20 Days

Days Lost

0

4

121

7518