

Annual Report 2018/19

1. Mission Statement-taking the reality of CEIST into account

Killina Presentation Secondary School is an inclusive Christian community aimed at the holistic development of each individual

The Academic year 2018/19 was significant in the school's history, with the announcement of the closing of Killina Presentation Convent. In May of 2019 an event was held to formally open a completed school extension and also to pay tribute and thanks to the Presentation order for their work in Education (Primary and Secondary) for over 200 years.

2. School Development Planning, to include:

- **Priority areas and action taken in 2018-2019**

Enhancing school facilities

The Board is conscious of the need to provide our students with appropriate and fit for purpose facilities. During the 2018/19 academic year work concluded on an extension and other infrastructural developments. The completed works saw the school benefit from an additional woodwork room, four classrooms, link corridor to classrooms which were previously external rooms, refurbished home economics room, second computer room, a third special needs classroom (in the schools resource centre) car parking and set down areas, three basketball courts, a training pitch and a full size sports field. The Board and Principal continued to pursue funding for a school Gym, this has been identified as an infrastructural priority.

The school was successful in an application for a further extension and, the Board and Principal look forward to advancing this in the coming year, it will see the addition of a further two classrooms and an additional two science labs and shared prep room. It is also hoped to provide toilet facilities to the sportsfield.

Vision 2023

During the course of the year consultations happened with parents, students and teachers in order to get an idea of the direction of the school over the next five years up to 2023. The Vision 2023 document was adopted by the Board of Management and gives a focus to the work of the school going forward.

School Self Evaluation

In the middle leadership and management team the role of coordinating the activities of SSE has been allocated as a post of responsibility.

Literacy and Numeracy Strategy

Link Teachers for Literacy and Numeracy were nominated and attended in-service. Planning groups worked on the School Self Evaluation Reports and the School Improvement Plans in both areas.

Study Skills Programme

Using the school self evaluation process, the study skills programme was delivered to students in the school. It was delivered and evaluated and has proven to be very successful. This year for examination years and Transition Years, we engaged the “Super Generation” to do Study Skills and Raising aspirations workshops. Teachers continue to deliver the school designed study skills workshops to other years, this blended approach of outside presenters and our own teacher presenter has proven successful and we plan to continue this for the coming year with little adjustment.

TL21/ Forbairt

The school was involved in both the TL21 and Forbairt initiatives/ programmes during the year. Using the SSE process we sought to identify and address areas in the school for improvement. The aim of both initiatives is to improve teaching and learning in the school.

In-Service Training

Staff members attended in-service on a variety of topics including:

- Junior Cycle training (whole school and subject specific)
- Literacy,
- Numeracy,
- School Self Evaluation,
- LCVP Annual Conference,
- Google Forms,
- Timetabling,
- ICT,
- Employment Law Training,
- Assessment of LCVP Portfolio Work,
- Business Teachers Annual Conference,
- German Teachers Annual Conference,
- Modern Languages,
- Guidance Counsellors Annual Conference,
- JMB Education Conference on Ethos,
- JMB Annual Conference,
- JMB Contracts workshop,
- JMB Allocations workshop,
- Child Protection,

in- service connected with the Junior Cycle will be a priority for the next Academic Year.

Subject Planning

Through the use of Croke Park hours and with Junior Cycle professional time teachers engaged in Subject department planning throughout the year. Subject departments annually set SMART targets and throughout the year strive to accomplish these targets.

Subject In-service

Subject teachers were released to attend subject in-service organised by the various Education Centres as the need arose during the year.

Middle Leadership and Management

Enhancing and strengthening the MLM team was an area developed during the year. The new post structure and circular initiated a review of the needs and priorities within the school. Many of the emerging needs/ priorities are being met through the MLM post of responsibility structure. Many other needs/ priorities are being met voluntarily by staff who do not hold posts of responsibility.

- **Special Needs Education**

We continued to provide ongoing support for students with Special Educational Needs. This was done through providing extra class divides in some subjects, withdrawing students from class either individually or in small groups and by the use of team teaching. Application was made to the Special Education Needs Organisator for resource hours and/or assistive technology as the need arose. Applications were submitted to the State Examinations Commission for Reasonable Accommodations for students sitting State Examinations. Applications were submitted to the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) for Educational Psychological Assessments for students identified as requiring assessment and a number of students were assessed or had assessments reviewed during the year. It was previously identified, that there is a need to develop the SET team in the school.

The Resource Centre for students with a Moderate General Learning Disability continued to provide an appropriate education to meet the individual needs of students with ModGLD enrolled in the classes in the centre. In the 2018-19 school year there were 17 students enrolled in the Resource centre of the school. Work on the third special classroom was completed during the year as part of the building project.

A request to redesignate a ModGLDgld class to an ASD class was considered and agreed by the Board for the 2019/20 year.

With the introduction of DES certification for these students in the form of L1LP and L2LP we are now looking to move towards these programmes. A programme called ASDAN is currently being used and is proving very successful.

- **Newcomer Students**

The school had a small number of newcomer students enrolled in the school during 2018/19 school year. Their needs were met through the support of the SET team and individual classroom teachers.

- **Disadvantaged students**

The school does not have disadvantage status, however in keeping with the schools ethos we seek to support students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We operate a book rental scheme for all students. With many families feeling the effects of the economic situation, fundraising is proving to be more difficult as is collection of monies for book rental, mock exams etc. In all correspondence from the school parents/ guardians are made aware that if there are issues of a financial concern that in confidence their concerns can be addressed by talking with the Principal.

3. Faith Development to include

- **RE Provision/hours taught in each year.**

Class groups are timetabled for 3 class periods, 2 hours per week for Religious Education. Religion is taught as an examinable subject in Junior Cycle. During the year a survey was completed to determine the feasibility of offering Religion as an examinable subject in senior cycle. Religion will be offered as an exam subject next year.

- **Observance of Liturgical Year**

Prayer services were held at the beginning of the school year.
All year groups attended an Advent Prayer service in the local church during December.
4th year students help to set up the Crib and Advent Wreath each year.
A Christmas Carol service is held annually.
All students had an opportunity to attend confession during Lent.
6th year graduation is celebrated with mass.

- **Culture of prayer and sacramental life in the school**

Masses for the opening of the new school year were celebrated in October in the local church with separate masses for junior and senior students.
Presentation Day was celebrated in November. The sisters from the local Presentation Community were invited to the school to attend a prayer service presented by a first year class.
A presentation was made to the sisters by the student council.
A graduation mass for 6th years was held in May with parents also in attendance.
Students were involved in a variety of fundraising activities for various charities throughout the year including the following:

St. Vincent de Paul,
Jigsaw Offaly,
Motor Nureon Disease association
Trocaire,
School Resource Centre,
Crumlin Childrens Hospital,
Jack and Jill Foundation.

Catholic Schools week was marked by all class groups participating in a prayer service within their timetabled RE classes.

All staff meetings, Board of Management meetings, Parent Association meetings and year group assemblies began with a prayer.

- **Retreats for students/reflection day for staff**

All 1st year, 3rd year and 6th year students went on retreat to the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Castletown, Co. Laois.

- **Chaplaincy services**

The local Parish Priest, Fr. Martin Carley acts as Chaplain to the school and he is always available and willing to help when required.

- **Ongoing professional development**

The Chairperson of the Board of Management, Principal and Deputy Principal attended the CEIST Annual Conference in Athlone. Teachers are afforded the opportunities available for CPD.

4. Pastoral Care

A tutor is appointed to each class group and each year group has a year head.

A group of 6th year students are selected and trained to work as Mentors with 1st years.

All members of staff take an active role in the Pastoral Care of the students as an integral part of their work in the school. The Guidance Counsellor is available to meet students as the need arises and staff bring concerns to the attention of the Guidance Counsellor, Deputy Principal and/or Principal when they have particular concerns about students.

5. Positive behaviour

Positive behaviour and student achievements were recognized and acknowledged at year group assemblies throughout the year and highlighted on the electronic notice board in the concourse area.

The Annual Awards were presented at the end of May. Awards were presented to students for excellent Punctuality, Attendance, Contribution to school life and participation in a range of extra curricular activities. Subject Departments presented awards for outstanding achievements in particular subjects. A Student of the Year award was presented in each year group as well as an overall Junior and Senior Student of the year.

Sports awards were also presented, these included Junior and Senior sports person of the year. Special awards were presented to students for notable achievements in events outside of school. Awards to Leaving Certificate students were presented following the Graduation Mass. Other awards were presented at a whole school assembly.

An Academic Awards night was held in the autumn with awards for those students who achieved the highest grades in each subject in the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations. Awards were also presented to the student with the highest overall grades in the Junior and Leaving Certificate examination. These award winners were determined by the results achieved in the State Examinations.

6. Parental Involvement (Report from Chair of Parents' Council)

The AGM of the Parents Association was held in October 2018 and saw the election of Angela Briggs as Chairperson, Ester Corble-Gaffey and Brigid Britten as Treasurer and Ann Cantwell as secretary. The remaining attendees agreed to hold positions as Committee members.

The Parents Association acts in a supportive role to the principal, students, parents and teachers. It acts as a conduit to represent the views of the parents and students.

The Committee dedicated time and effort to various fundraising events last year including clothing collections, bag packing. The monies raised will be put towards and agreed and identified need in the school

This year the parents council in consultation with the guidance counsellor arranged for a careers fair. This was organised for Killina students and also open to other students from the area. It proved to be a great success.

The Committee was also consulted on various policies and prospective changes to the operation of the school.

The Parents association meet once a month for no more than 1 hour, new members are always welcome.

It is a great way to become involved in your child's education and to meet new parents.

Angela Briggs
Chairperson

7. BOM (Report from Chair of BOM)

This year is the second year of the current Board of Management. The Board held six regular meetings during the year. There were also three special meetings during the year. All meetings of the Board were very well attended.

This year was significant in the school's history with the announcement of the closure of Killina Convent from August 2019. We as a school community are deeply indebted to the Presentation sisters for their dedication and commitment over 200 years and for their continued support of the school.

The Board oversaw the upgrading of school facilities throughout the year. The Board is also progressing the development of sports facilities. We were delighted to see work completed on a six classroom extension and other associated development work.

We are happy that a funding application previously made to the department of Education was granted in June and we look forward to the provision of two additional classrooms and two additional science labs. The provision of a standalone school Gym is a priority in terms of facilities and our commitments to providing students with the best possible facilities.

The Board acknowledges the support received from parents, teachers and students during the year as well as the support of CEIST and members of the Presentation Order.

Mr. Tom Stokes
Chairperson, Board of Management.

8. Student Council Report

The 2018/2019 Student Council had a busy and productive year. The members represented the student body on various occasions throughout the year and always gave freely of their time, attending lunchtime meetings, as well as co-ordinating and organising events within the school. This year saw the Student Council organise a very successful talent show where they raised much needed funds for the Irish Cancer Society.

It has in recent years become standard practice for the President and Vice-President of the Student Council to address the parents of current and prospective students on Open Night. Their presentations were received very well on the night and the students involved displayed excellent leadership skills.

Members of the council from each year group gave information occasionally at assemblies and some senior members from T.Y and 5th year represented the school at the "National Ceist Student Leadership Conference".

On behalf of all the students, a gift was given to the Presentation Sisters on Presentation Day and also at Christmas. As this year marked the closing of the convent, the Student Council were

heavily involved in the organisation of the celebration of the Opening of the new school extension where the closing of the convent was also marked.

Senior members were involved with many of the end of year events, such as the Graduation Mass, the “fun day”, and the selling of tickets for the Graduation Ball which was held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Saturday 31st August. This was a night enjoyed by all the graduates and their guests, as well as parents, teachers and friends.

Fostering a positive atmosphere within our school is the priority of the Student Council and the members strive each year to do their best in this regard. In recognition of their positive contribution to school life, all members were presented with certificates at the awards ceremony at the end of the year and were thanked for all their hard work and commitment.

Student council
2018-19

9. Extra-Curricular activities

Students participated in a wide range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities during the past year including:

- Juvenile, Junior and Senior football,
- Juvenile, Junior and Senior hurling,
- Ladies Football in 3 age groups,
- Ladies Soccer
- Athletics, cross country and track and field,
- Equestrian,
- Golf,
- Camogie,
- School Musical,
- Science Week, quiz and poster competitions,
- Poetry Aloud,
- Public speaking
- Guitar Lessons,
- Badminton, u14, u16 and u19, boys and girls,
- World Book Day,
- French Exchange,
- 3rd year tour to Germany,
- Zambian Immersion Project,
- Seachtain na Gaeilge,
- 1st year tour,
- Junior Maths Competition,
- Study Skills Seminars,
- Fundraising Activities for Various Charities,
- Student Enterprise Awards,
- Quiz to mark International Day of Languages,

Lunchtime Leagues in football and soccer.
Poster and Essay competitions,
Various Field Trips,
Visits to Cinema, Theatre and National Gallery,
Cyber Bullying and a range of Careers options,

10. Enrolment

We had 17 students enrolled in the Resource Centre.

Total enrolment for 2018/19 was 463 students at the end of September, Further enrolments after September brought the number enrolled to 470 by the end of the year. We expect that school numbers will grow in the next academic year, following a pattern of increasing enrolments into 1st year. While the growth in students enrolling in the school is positive, the school needs to carefully consider how best to manage this going forward.