

Annual Report 2019-20

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 2019-20 was unlike any other in the history of the school with the schools closure from March 12th as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. Learning continued online from March 12th until the end of the year.

2. School Development Planning, to include:

- **Priority areas and action taken in 2019-2020**

Enhancing school facilities

The Board is conscious of the need to provide our students with appropriate and fit for purpose facilities.

The school was successful in the previous year in achieving approval for a building project, the scope of works was reviewed on request from the school and we look forward to the addition of new facilities to the school. The extension will comprise of two science labs, two classrooms, a textiles room, a home economics room, a two classroom ASD suite and refurbishment of a disused building to provide five additional SET spaces.

The provision of a full-size Gym remains a priority in terms of infrastructural priorities.

Vision 2023

During the course of the year there was ongoing reflection on the progress in achieving the ambitious targets outlined in the Vision 2023 document.

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. Embedding the methodical approach of SSE into all aspects of school life towards deriving improvement is a priority. Literacy, Numeracy and Digital learning remained a focus for the year.

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,
- 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,
- 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

This year was the first year for the Nagle centre (a special class for students with an ASD diagnosis. A request to establish a second class was considered and agreed to, once the DES sanctioned a two classroom ASD suite.

- **Newcomer Students**

The school had a small number of newcomer students enrolled in the school during 2019/20 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. 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.

- **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.

It is planned to hold a graduation mass for the 6th year students of the 19-20 academic year, when public health advice allows, following the easing of restrictions associated with the COVID19 pandemic.

- **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.

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.

Following the schools closure on March 12th as a result of the Covid19 pandemic, it was not possible to organise the annual awards nights and presentations as usually happens.

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

The AGM of the Parents Association was held in October 2019 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 parent's 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 third year of the current Board of Management. The Board held six regular meetings during the year. There were also special meetings during the year. All meetings of the Board were very well attended.

The Board oversaw the upgrading of school facilities throughout the year.

Following a review at the request of the Boards the scope of works for a previously granted project was increased. We look forward to the progressing our additional school accommodation project, which will include two additional classrooms, two additional science labs, a textile and Home Economics room and two classroom ASD suite. The provision of a standalone school Gym is a priority in terms of facilities and our commitment 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 2019/2020 Student Council had a busy and productive year up until March 2020. 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 all student council members attended the "Comhairle na nOg" in the Tullamore Court hotel where they attended various workshops and enjoyed their day thoroughly.

The student council were approached by the wellbeing committee to analyse the surveys that were completed to aid with the design of the new wellbeing curriculum and policy within the school.

The student council had various discussions about fundraisers to hold during the year. Unfortunately due to school closure in March they did not get to see their plans come to fruition for the talent show and an exciting new idea " Grab a grandish".

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.

On behalf of all the students, a gift was given to the Presentation Sisters on Presentation Day.

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 will be presented with certificates of their involvement in due course.

Ms. Whelan and Ms. Quinn

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
- Badminton, u14, u16 and u19, boys and girls,
- World Book Day,
- French Exchange,
- 3rd year tour to Germany,
- 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,
- Cyber Bullying and a range of Careers options,

10. Enrolment

We had 21 students enrolled in the Resource Centre in two ModGLD classes and one ASD class.

Total enrolment for 2019/20 was 493 students at the end of September. 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.

