

# Creagh National School



Ballinasloe,  
Co. Galway.

Tel. 090 9642634  
Fax. 090 9645463  
H53PT32

[principal.creaghns@gmail.com](mailto:principal.creaghns@gmail.com)  
[www.creaghns.com](http://www.creaghns.com)

**Chairperson:** Mr Frank Gallagher  
**Principal (Acting):** Áine Ní Cholleráin (Bleahene)

## Board of Management

### End of Year Report 2021-2022

**The following is the End of Year Report for 2021/2022 agreed by the Board of Management at its meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022.**

#### **Members of the Board of Management**

- Frank Gallagher: Chairperson
- Carmel Stack: Patron's Nominee
- Fr. John Garvey: Patron's Nominee
- Áine Ní Cholleráin Bleahene, Principal (Acting) and Secretary to the BOM
- Rita Moore, Parents' Nominee and Treasurer
- Aidan Curley, Parents' Nominee
- Caroline Gallagher, Teachers' Nominee
- Miriam Comerford, Community Nominee

**Áine Bleahene was nominated as Principal (Acting) and secretary to the Board of Management on 5/11/2021 following the retirement of acting Principal Mr. Noel Lohan.**

**The BOM operates under the guidelines of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association. The School Patron is Dr Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert and Galway and Kilmacduagh.**

## Meetings

The BOM met on the following dates during the course of the academic year **2021-2022**

- September 27<sup>th</sup> 2021
- November 5<sup>th</sup> 2021
- December 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Appointment meeting)
- February 14<sup>th</sup> 2022
- April 25<sup>th</sup> (Admissions Meeting)
- May 9<sup>th</sup> (Special Board Meeting)
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022

## Agreed Report

An Agreed Report is posted on the school website after each meeting, apart from Special Board Meetings.

## Agenda

An agenda is set seven days in advance of each BOM. At every meeting (Not including Special meetings) the Principal and the Treasurer present a detailed report to the Board.

## Principal's Child Protection Oversight Report to the BOM

Following the enactment of the Children First Act 2015, the Principal presents a Child Protection Oversight Report to the BOM at every meeting. This is in line with the oversight role of the Board of Management in relation to matters relating to Child Protection. The principal presents regular anti bullying reports to the Board.

## Classes and Teachers for 2021 - 2022

Junior Infants	Ms. K. Barrett, Ms O. Carty and Ms. E. Lohan
Senior Infants	Ms A Connaughton/Ms R Curtin
First Class	Ms R. Coen (Ms. Carey) Ms K. O Donohue (Ms. Cahalan)
Second Class	Ms L. Gallagher & Ms J. Fox
Third Class	Mrs C. Gallagher / Ms R. Power
Fourth Class	Ms Blade
Fifth Class	Mr. S. Dolan & Ms. N. Conway
Sixth Class	Mr. M. Ronaldson & Mr. L. Geraghty

## Special Education Team

Ms. M. O' Rourke
Ms Farrell
Ms K Dooley
Ms S. Kenny
Mrs Mc Cann
Ms Fallon (Ms Greene)
Ms Moran
Ms Colohan
CLASS: Ms C Duffy
Additional Banked Hours: Mr. A. O' Donovan

EAL: Mr K. Barrett
Shared Post: Ms E. Conolly
Supply Panel: Mr. K. Moloney Ms R. Coen Ms B. McNamara

### **Special Needs Assistants**

Ms H. Divilly Sweeney/Ms S. Loughnane
Ms S. Carty
Ms. P. Rooney
Ms F. Lyons
Ms. C. Concannon
Ms A. Mitchell (Ms O. Flynn, Mrs. C. O' Riordan)

**School Secretary:** Ms Ann Haynes

**School Caretaker:** Mr Eddie Brady (Appointed in July 2021)

**Cleaners:** Tracy Rigney

Sonya Kelly

Aine O' Neill (Since Easter)

### **Leadership and Management Team**

Following DES Circular 0044/2019, the following personnel are part of the Leadership and Management Team:

**Acting Principal: Ms Áine Ní Cholleráin (Bleahene)** was appointed Acting Principal on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

(Ms Stephanie Keating, Principal is seconded to the Athlone Education Centre)

**Acting Deputy Principal** and Responsibility for Literacy and Numeracy, SPHE and RSE and The School Library: **Majella O' Rourke**. Ms O Rourke was appointed to this position on 5/11/2021

**Acting Principal 1: Caroline Gallagher** was appointed to this position on 5/11/2021 and she has responsibility for Health and Safety, Visual Arts, Rental Books, Display, Maths Resources, The School Garden/Polytunnel and Pastoral Care.

*The Deputy Principal and the Assistant Principal 1 assist the Principal with the day to day running of the school, including the area of Supervision.*

### **Assistant Principal 2**

**Regina Power** has responsibility for Information Technology/Computer hardware and software/School's Digital Strategy.

**Ann Farrell** was appointed to Assistant Principal 2 on the 13/12/2021 and has responsibility for Assessment.

**Mark Ronaldson** was appointed to Assistant Principal 2 on 13/12/2021 and has responsibility for SESE with a particular immediate focus on Geography.

*All members of the team are part of the Critical Incident Management Team and they also assist the Principal in the areas of leadership and management within the school including the area of School Self Evaluation.*

### **Career Breaks for 2020/2021**

Ms Elaine Whyte, a member of the teaching staff, was on a career break.

Ms Carmel O Riordian, a member of the SNA staff was on a career break.

Ms Stephanie Keating (Principal) is seconded to the Athlone Education Centre

### **Job Sharing for 2017/18**

Ms Helena Divilly Sweeney and Ms S. Loughnane job share together.

**School Inspector:** The Roinn Cigire attached to the school is Mr. Martin Whyte. The inspector carried out an **Inspectorate Visit to Support the Provision of a Safe Working and Learning Environment** on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. The report can be viewed on the school website.

**Enrolment** September 2021: **Total: 429**

### **Child Safeguarding**

**Designated Liaison Person:** Áine Ní Cholleraín Bleahene

**Deputy Designated Liaison Person:** Majella O' Rourke

The Board of Management met on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 to review the Risk Assessment and to ratify the Child Safeguarding Statement. The Child Safeguarding Statement replaces the school's Child Protection Policy and operates alongside the DES Child Protection Guidelines for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017. All staff have completed the Tusla "Introduction to Children First" E Learning Programme. All staff and people working in the school are fully Garda vetted before beginning work in the school.

### **Covid Response Plan:**

The school followed all guidance with regard to Covid Prevention Measures.

All rooms in the school were furnished with HEPA filters and CO2 monitors. Greater emphasis has been placed on the use of the school grounds to foster teaching and learning throughout the school. Packs to inform teachers re teaching using the school environment were formulated and disseminated by Caroline Gallagher.

**LWR:** Majella O Rourke

**DLWR:** Siobhan Carty

The board would like to pay particular thanks to Siobhan Carty for all her work ensuring that staff PPE boxes were regularly updated.

**Revised Stay Safe Programme:** It is school policy that the Stay Safe Programme is taught on a two year rolling programme on an annual basis during the period January-March inclusive.

### **School Attendance**

Individual pupil attendance reports are submitted annually to the National Education Welfare Board.

Concerns relating to attendance are reported to the Education Welfare Officer. Parents are notified in advance of this report being made.

### **Main School Events and Achievements 2021-2022**

- Election of the Student Council (Pupils from 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- Science Week: Co-ordinated by Mr. Ronaldson/Mr Dolan
- Engineers' Week: Co-ordinated by Mr Ronaldson
- Parent Teacher Meetings
- Parents' Association AGM: Brief address by Principal
- Secondary Schools Principals' Visits to 6<sup>th</sup> Class Pupils
- Friendship Week: Facilitated by Ms Laura Gallagher.
- St Brigid's Day Crosses: All funds raised donated to Ballinasloe Social Services
- Participation in local community events and competitions eg Credit Union Competition, Local Art Competitions, Community Games
- Inclusion Programme with St Teresa's Special School (Third Term): Facilitated by Alan O' Donovan and Ciara Duffy
- Readathon: Miss Fox's 2<sup>nd</sup> class, Miss O Donohue's 1<sup>st</sup> class.
- Investment and upgrade in Sports Equipment; including table tennis nets (Co-ordinated by Mark Ronaldson, Kiara Barrett and Nicole Conway. *A special thanks to Eddie Brady for designing and making the new storage units as well as the terrific new resources for Sports Day.*
- Celebration of Ms Klara Donoghue's Camogie success with Sarsfields club: Co-ordinated by Shane Dolan.
- Lion's Club Christmas Food Appeal: Co-ordinated by Ms Laura Gallagher.
- Christmas plays (Remote)
- Mr. Ronaldson's class Zoom with Maria Walsh MEP
- Christmas Doors art competitions.
- School Garden. Opening of Polytunnel, Mr Lohan's Garden, Outdoor Aistear area, Fairy Garden., Bug Hotel. (Sponsored by McKeon's and Cregg Stone.
- Retirement of Mr Noel Lohan; Acting Principal (Blended celebration)
- Indoor reflective spaces and friendship pods created. (Co-ordinated by Ms Gallagher and Mrs Gallagher)
- Walk on Wednesdays reinstated.
- Orienteering Day: Facilitated by Mark Ronaldson. Sponsored by The Ballinasloe Credit Union (School to be mapped)
- Sporting Events:
  - Visit by Pearses' Victorious Team

- Participation of 6<sup>th</sup> class in Marathon Kids. Visit of **David Gillick** to the school.
- Visit by Past pupil and international Rugby star: **Beibhinn Parsons**
- Weekly swimming
- Football Coaching : Ballinasloe Club and Pearses Club
- Hurling Coaching
- Rugby Coaching
- Dancing at Breaktimes: With sound system won by Active School Committee.
- 5<sup>th</sup> class Football referees.
- Tug of War Day
- Sports week
- Active week
- Award of 4<sup>th</sup> Active Flag presented by Past Pupil and International Soccer star **Heather Payne. Active School's Project facilitated by Nicole Conway and the Active School's Committee**
- Danceathon facilitated by Emily Lohan.
- Rugby training and Blitz for 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class.
- New Jerseys for school team sponsored by Utah.
- The Joe Murphy Cup (Organised by Mark Ronaldson and assisted by pupils from Garbally Collage)
- Cycle Right Course which 6<sup>th</sup> class completed. This was delivered by Cycle Safe Ireland in conjunction with the Galway County Council and An Taisce.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge co-ordinated by Ms Majella O Rourke.
- Cake sale organised by Mr. Ronaldson, Mr. Geraghty and 6<sup>th</sup> Class Pupils in aid of Tanzania.
- Participation in Sing Space Ireland by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class (Athlone University)
- Magical Leaders programme with Ms Conway's 5<sup>th</sup> class.
- Creative Week: Facilitated by Mrs Caroline Gallagher
- Celebration of multicultural ceremonies and celebrations in the school: Co-ordinated by Shane Dolan.
- School Student Council: Co-ordinated by Mr. Shane Dolan.
- Visit by Mr Dolan's 5<sup>th</sup> class to the Ombudsman's Office
- New Modern Language Pilot ; "Say Yes to Languages": Co-ordinated by Mr Shane Dolan, facilitated by Ruth Brennan, Attended by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. The school has been accepted to participate again in 2022-2023 in the expanded programme.
- 6<sup>th</sup> class Transition Day: Facilitated by Inspire Education
- Jersey Day in support of Parent, Mr. Aidan Sheridan's fundraising for cancer.
- Bike and Tractor Day: Organised and facilitated by Ms Blade, Eddie Brady and 4<sup>th</sup> class
- The Hatching of Baby Chicks: Organised by Regina Power
- Participation in Gardening competitions: Facilitated by Caroline Gallagher
- Book Week
- Teddy Bear hospital event for Junior Infants co-ordinated by Mr Geraghty's sixth class.
- Participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade: (First place in Education section)

- Catholic Schools Week, including a remote Prayer Service celebrated by Fr Garvey with all pupils.
- Remote class led assemblies every week in term 2.
- Tree Day and Tree Week
- Healthy Eating Promotion: Food Dudes
- Fun Friends and Friends for Life Programmes for pupils in First Class and in Fifth Class.
- Ceremony of light for 6<sup>th</sup> Class Pupils
- Confirmation (Including for those past pupils who missed celebrating the sacrament due to Covid)
- First Confession (Including for those children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class who missed celebrating the sacrament due to Covid)
- First Holy Communion (Including for those children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class who missed celebrating the sacrament due to Covid)
- First Communion and confirmation ice-cream Party for Second Class/sixth class pupils hosted by the Parents' Association
- Cinema event for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class
- End of Year Standardised Tests: (Facilitated by Ann Farrell)
- End of Year Talent Show (Co-ordinated by Emily Lohan)
- Choirs for Communion/ Confirmation and Graduation (Directed by: Emily Lohan, Caroline Gallagher and Majella O' Rourke; accompanied by Marie Power and Kevin Barrett)
- Cake sale to raise money for Tanzania: Co-ordinated by Mr Ronaldson, Mr Geraghty and 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- Induction afternoon for new intake Junior Infants: Co-ordinated by fifth class, Ms Carty, Ms Barrett and Ms Lohan
- School Tours (All classes)
- End of School Year graduation Mass
- Official opening of the School Garden and Polytunnel.
- Graduation Ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> Class Pupils; followed by refreshments provided by the Parents' Association.
- Presentation of Sporting Awards
- Presentation of Pupil of the Year Special Achievement Awards
- Twitter updates on all school activities organised by Mr Shane Dolan

### **Staff Training:**

- New Primary Language Curriculum (Online: Attended by all Staff)
- Restorative Practice sustained support training from PDST (attended by all staff.)
- Dyslexia training: (Attended by 8 members of staff.)
- Mata sa Rang training: (Attended by 7 members of staff.)
- Child Safeguarding Seminar (Attended by the Principal)
- Health and Safety Training (Attended by Principal)
- Misneach training (Attended by Principal)
- Coaching Training (Attended by Principal)
- Wellbeing Seminar (Attended by the Principal and Caroline Gallagher)

- Reading Recovery Training/ Information Training: (Attended by Principal and Majella O Rourke)
- RSE: Flourish Training: attended by Principal and Deputy Principal
- Brain Calm Training: (Attended by F. Colohan, E. Moran, S. Loughnane.)
- Emotion Coaching Training (Attended by A. Farrell)
- Physical Literacy Seminar: Attended by Shane Dolan and Kiara Barrett.
- Orienteering Training: Attended by Mark Ronaldson and Nicole Conway
- Training in Autism: Klara O' Donoghue, Ann Farrell, Emer Moran

*Staff members also engage in additional ongoing professional development throughout the year.*

### **School Self Evaluation**

The school has identified Wellbeing as the area of focus for SSE. Sustained support was received in the area of Restorative Practice in 2021-2022. Further support has been requested for 2022-2023.

### **Droichead**

There are currently 3 members of staff trained in Droichead. Two additional members of staff were guided successfully through the Droichead Process during 2021-2022. This project was also supported extremely well by all staff who facilitated classroom observations and acted in a mentoring capacity.

### **The BOM funded the following training:**

- Dyslexia Training
- Brain Calm training
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Training (INTO Summer course 2022)
- Mata sa Rang Training
- Lámh Training
- Training in Addressing the needs of pupils with Downs Syndrome.

### **Policy Review**

- Anti Bullying Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Covid Response Plan
- SPHE policy

### **Plans and policies currently being reviewed/formulated by the staff**

- SESE School Plan (Geography)
- Primary Language Plan
- Assessment Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Homework Policy
- PE/ Physical literacy



All active school policies are available on the school website [www.creaghns.com](http://www.creaghns.com) under the Downloads Section. There is no password required to access these policies. The review and drafting of policies is a collaborative process and draft policies are uploaded to the school website for staff and parental input.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Scores for 2021/2022**

End of year scores attained by pupils both in Literacy and Numeracy will be reviewed by the BOM. Scores are submitted to the DES for 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes at the end of each school year.

### **Some In-School Practices**

#### **Pupil Wellbeing**

- **Restorative Approach to Relationships: All classes**
- Social, Personal and Health Education Curriculum (mandatory for all classes)
- Stay Safe Programme (Mandatory for all classes)
- Friends for Life (Fifth class)
- Fun Friends (First Class)
- FUSE (Anti Bullying):5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class
- Sensory and Active Breaks: All classes
- Wellbeing spaces and Friendship pods: Available to all pupils.
- Ms Ann Farrell will be facilitating a school wide initiative in the area of Growth Mindset in the first term of 2022.
- Buddy Benches in playgrounds to promote friendship.
- Adapted seating has been sourced and is being utilised in response to specific pupil needs. This is being reviewed.
- The school has discontinued the use of external facilitators for RSE and this is now fully delivered by class teachers as part of the RSE programme.
- The Principal and Deputy Principal attended training in the 'Flourish' RSE Programme. Work will begin on revising the school's RSE policy in September 2022.

#### **Literacy and Numeracy**

- Reading Recovery for six pupils
- Literacy Lift Off (Senior Infants/First Class)
- Junior Infant Literacy Support
- New Primary Language Curriculum (Oral Language/Reading and Writing: Infants-2<sup>nd</sup> Classes) This applies to English and Irish languages.
- Ready Set Go Maths Programme (Junior and Senior Infants)
- Mata sa Rang (First and Second Classes: to be rolled out to third class)
- Building Bridges Programme (All Classes)
- Writing Genre: PM Writing Programme (First to Sixth Classes)
- Integrated Approach to Reading (All Classes)

- Aistear Programme (Infant Classes: to be piloted in first class from September 2022)
- NESSY: Online learning tool to support specific learning difficulties: All second class as well as additional children with needs.
- Lego Therapy: As a tool to support language needs.
- Words Their Way: Adapted as a school wide spelling programme as recommended by NEPs
- Pilot of Test 2R in association with Blackrock Education Centre: Senior Infants
- Use of WIAT to support literacy throughout the school.
- An additional teacher (Ms O Rourke) will be training in the area of Reading Recovery in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Following on from staff training in Dyslexia, the school will bring in a series of measures to become a more dyslexia friendly school by adopting some practices for all pupils that will particularly benefit those with the greatest needs (eg. Visual timetables, changes in reading aloud in whole class settings...) This is to be formulated by the team of teachers who engaged with the training and co-ordinated/disseminated to all staff by MS O' Rourke in time for September 2022.
- A whole school handwriting scheme and approach is currently being investigated by Ria Curtin and Laura Gallagher. The work is a follow on from Handwriting training received by the staff previously that had been deferred due to Covid.

### **Additional Accommodation**

The building project for an additional classroom will take place over the summer break. This classroom is expected to be completed for September 2022 and ready for use for the start of the new term.

The Board of Management acknowledges with thanks the funding provided by the Department of Education and Skills.

### **Extra Curricular Activities in Creagh NS**

**Boys' Hurling:** Mr Liam Geraghty and Mr Kevin Barrett (Third to Sixth Classes)

**Boys' Football (Gaelic Training):** Mr Mark Ronaldson

**Girls' Football:** Ms Ciara Duffy, Ms Nicole Conway, Ms Coen

**Camogie Training:** Ms Klara Donoghue, Ms Sinead Kenny,

*The Board of Management is very grateful to all of the teachers and coaches who continue to give willingly and generously of their time to share their skill and expertise with the pupils.*

### **Meditation with Children**

We will be promoting daily Meditation with Children at 12pm in the 2022-2023 school year. This will be followed by engagement with Religious Education (depending on the age profile of the class).

### **Minor Works and Improvements 2021-2022**

- Fire Safety Certificate issued following Fire Safety Inspection
- Improvement to storage areas and shelving systems in Hall.
- Annual check of Fire Alarm and Intruder Alarm.
- All gates locked every evening (New locks)
- Upgrade to school's security system including remote access to alarm system.
- Painting and refurbishment in entrance area.

### **IT Equipment**

The DE IT Grants have enabled the school to upgrade of its IT equipment. Details of expenditure on IT equipment forms part of the school accounts.

A bank of Chrome books has been purchased for use with older classes. Additional iPads have been sourced and devices to support literacy, such as scanning pens, are being sourced.

### **School Summer Programme**

The school is partaking in the 2022 School based Summer Programme for the second time in July 2022. The programme will run over the first three weeks in July and will cater for in excess of 50 children in total, over three groups. 12 members of staff are involved in delivering the programme in 2022. The principal is the administrator.

### **Library Grant:**

The school will use the new library grant to enhance class libraries: Ms O Rourke and Mr Ronaldson to co-ordinate this.

### **Fundraising Events**

- **Cake Sale:** Organised by 6<sup>th</sup> Class in aid of Tanzania. In excess of €1000 was raised.
- **Christmas Jumper Day**
- **Readathon**
- **No Uniform Days organised by the Student Council for a variety of causes**
- **St Brigid's Day Crosses:** The making and selling of these crosses has become an annual event in Creagh NS.

## **Finance**

**The End of Year Accounts for 2021-2022** were compiled and reviewed by an independent accountant. Copies of same are available to view from the Principal's Office. A copy of the school accounts will be sent to the school Patron, Bishop **Michael Duignan**.

**Online Banking** The school is now using online banking for the payment of many bills. This is proving to be an efficient and economical way of making payments. The BOM wishes to thank the school secretary, Ann Haynes for her trojan work with this system.

## **School's Voluntary Contribution Scheme**

The BOM will be re-instating the school's voluntary contribution scheme for 2022-2023 as additional DE funding is not expected to continue past the summer. We are grateful to parents for their ongoing support through the school's Voluntary Contribution Scheme.

## **Aladdin Connect**

The school has instigated the use of Aladdin connect this year, End of year reports for 2021/2022 were released digitally via Aladdin Connect in June 2022. This is in line with our Green Schools agenda. The school will expand the use of Aladdin Connect to e-payments for parents for 2022-2023.

## **Budget for the School Year**

The Board of Management agrees on a budget in advance of the beginning of the school year.

The BOM expresses its sincere thanks to the Treasurer, Rita Moore for maintaining the school accounts.

## **Funding and Sponsorship:**

The Board would like to extend it's most sincere thanks to all those who have sponsored and supported the school throughout the year.

## **Creagh NS Parents' Association**

The Board of Management acknowledges with thanks the ongoing support and great work of the school's Parents' Association.

## **Sympathy**

The Board of Management extends its sympathy to all families and staff members who have been bereaved during the school year.

## **Conclusion**

The BOM expresses its thanks to the Principal, Staff, Parents/Guardians, Parents' Association, DES, Primary Inspectorate, School Community and all of those who support the work of the school.

***This End of Year Report for 2021/2022 was proposed by Board Members:***

*Míruam Comerford*  
*Carmel Stack*

**Signed:**

***Frank Gallagher***

**Frank Gallagher, Chairperson**

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**Áine Ní Cholleráin , Principal (Acting)**

**Date: June 23rd 2022.**