

Caragh National School

Roll No: 18654a



Board of Management

Annual Report 2018/19

Board of Management 2018/19

Chairperson:	Kevin Cleary
Patron's Nominee:	Fr. Joe McDermott
Treasurer:	Sean Sweeney
Community Reps:	Clare Kielty
Secretary (Principal):	Mary J Dunne
Teachers' Nominee:	Sarah Losty
Parents' Nominee:	Gareth Norton and Clare O'Shaughnessy

During the past academic year board meetings were held on the following dates:

- 29th August 2018
- 20th September 2018
- 24th October 2018
- 11th December 2018
- 17th January 2019
- 7th March 2019
- 27th March 2019
- 9th May 2019
- 20th May 2019 – check this date
- 18th June 2019
- 11th July 2019 by tele conference to approve staffing

Staffing

For 2019/2020 academic year we will have an Administrative Principal, 19 mainstream class teachers, 8 Special Ed. Teachers, 5.5 SNA's, a caretaker and secretary.

Inspector – Caitriona Ni Bhriain

Retirement and New Appointment

The board received notice from the principal, Mary Dunne indicating her intention to retire from her position at the end of the academic year 2018/2019. The board followed the policy and procedures as laid out in the governance manual, to advertise, interview and appoint the new principal Mr. Alan Hobbins.

Mary Dunne

Mary Dunne was first appointed as a teacher in Caragh N.S. in 1985 and retired as Principal in August 2019. In the intervening years she held a number of roles within the teaching staff of the school and was appointed as Principal in 2013. The Board of Management wish to record its absolute gratitude to Mary for her dedication to and work in the school throughout her career, in particular, while she held the position as Principal. Mary was fully committed to the school. She was an exemplar in terms of her leadership and management of the school; the best interests of the pupils were central to everything she did within the school. The Board of Management wish Mary and her family the very best and again thank her for her years of distinguished service to both the school and the wider Caragh community.

School Ethos

We are an inclusive Catholic school, in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. In co-operation with the clergy, parents and teachers, Catholic children were prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation March 30th, First Communion May 12th and Confirmation April 12th. A Christmas carol service was held on December 19th involving pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The pupils attended mass on as part of Catholic Schools Week. The week culminated in Grandparents' Day organised by pupils and teachers in 3rd class on February 1st. The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal was very successful with 240 boxes collected.

Pastoral Care

A pastoral care programme for each class group is facilitated through post holders in the school. Each class group also organised and participated in an assembly throughout the year.

Attendance

School Achievements & Events

Caragh NS was awarded Cumann na mBunscoil large school of the year 2018. In 2018, the school participated in 14 competitions and contested 8 finals.

The school was also awarded a 5 star centre of GAA Excellence Award.

Our achievements include:

Sport

Boys Football

Participation in Division 1 boys football u/11

Participation in Division 1 at senior level

Participation in u/10 football Div 2

Hurling

Participation in Div 2 at u/11

Winners of Division 1 at senior level

Girls Football

Participation in u/11 and senior competitions

Camogie

Participation at u/11 level

Participation at Division 1 Senior Level

Athletics

Couch to 5km Programme with 6th class pupils

Cross Country – Bronze medal for the boys team

Cross Country – Bronze medal for the girls team

Cross Country – Silver medal for an individual boy

Cross Country – Silver medal for an individual girl

Daily Mile

Each class in Caragh NS participated in the Daily Mile. The daily mile is a social activity where children of all classes run or jog for 15 minutes during school hours with their classmates. It is designed as a way of children achieving improved health and wellbeing through physical activity.

Basketball

Basketball blitz competition for both boys and girls teams

Active Schools Week June 2019

Whole school participated in a great week, coordinated by staff members. The aim of the week was to see the whole school involved in activities.

Sincere thanks to all the staff who coach teams, both during lunch times and after school. We are also thankful for parental support at games.

This year the school also participated in the following initiatives:

Junior Entrepreneurs: This was the first year Caragh NS participated in the programme. The programme gave pupils an insight into developing their own business. Children developed the following skills: designing, researching, financing, marketing and sales.

Student Council: This year saw the establishment of a student council in Caragh N.S. The council was made up of one pupil from each class 3rd to 6th. The council promoted the Daily Mile, delivered Food Dudes fruit and veg. to classes, welcomed incoming parents of Junior Infants on June 13th and monitored lines in the yard at various times during the school year.

Credit Union Quiz Team – A quiz team from the school reached the Credit Union National Final for the first time in the history of the school. Their journey to the final saw them win the local chapter and the Leinster chapter. They came 3rd in the final. Well done to all involved.

Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings for classes 1st to 6th were held on November 22nd. This year the meetings were scheduled through Aladdin connect and this booking system proved very successful.

Parent Teacher Meetings for classes Junior and Senior Infants were held over the week 11th -15th February 2019

Tour

- 6th class tour to Delphi

This tour take place due to the continued support and commitment of staff and parents.

Policy Development

Policies worked on and reviewed by the BoM during this year include:

- Legislative + Regulatory checklist was completed.
- Annual Review of the Child Protection Policy completed.
- Annual Review of the Anti-Bullying Policy and its implementation was completed.
- Annual Review of Child Protection
- Code of Behaviour – amended to include the use of social media
- Special Education Policy
- Gaeilge Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Protected Disclosures Policy
- Stay Safe Programme Policy
- Visual Arts Policy
- Music Policy
- Digital Learning Plan

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank all of our staff for their hard work and dedication to the school.

Curricular Development

Continuous Professional Development – was organised in the following areas:

- Workshop for teachers on Internet Safety and use of Social Media presented by Zeeko
- February 20th – Staff In-service Day – This day was presented and facilitated by the staff. It involved presentations from staff on the following areas: Speech and Language, New Language Curriculum, Cil (PE integrated with Gaeilge). The staff worked in groups on the new curriculum facilitated and mentored by their peers.

Testing

- Screening Tests were completed in Junior + Senior Infants.
 - NNRIT – Non Reading Intelligence testing was conducted in 2nd + 4th classes.
- Standardised Tests*
- Standardised Testing in Literacy and Numeracy were completed with classes 1st – 6th.
 - Standardised test results in Literacy + Numeracy were reviewed by the board. The board were pleased with the excellent results when compared to national norms.
 - 86 % of pupils tested scored at or above a sten of 5 on the Drumcondra Literacy test.
 - 90 % of pupils scored at or above a sten of 5 on the Sigma T Maths test.

Incidental Visit

The school received an incidental visit from Ms. Lena Ni Dhuinn, an inspector with the DES on Wednesday May 7th. She observed teaching and learning in Senior Infants, Second and Sixth Class. She provided a very positive report, noting that teaching and learning were of a very high standard, excellent practice in all lessons observed. She commented on the respectful and positive rapport and relationships evident among staff and pupils. She noted that the pupils were articulate, confident and used very rich language. The school was found to be compliant with Child Protection Procedures. She suggested three areas for further development:

- Expand very good assessment practices to a whole school level.
- Ensure that School Self Evaluation Action Planning Targets are referenced in planning.
- Afford teachers the opportunity for professional dialogue with colleagues to build on this excellent practice.

Gaeilge

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- Gradam Ui Lineachain was awarded in memory of a former colleague. This award was presented to a 6th class pupil in an Irish essay writing competition.
- On March 14th the School Orchestra and Scoil Rince Na Life Irish Dancers took to the stage with two special concerts to entertain and to enthral.
- On Friday March 15th, sixth class hosted a Margadh Cáca in aid of "Ben for Barrettstown". The event in its second year saw all classes bake and buy, while also using their Gaeilge.

English

- Significant planning was carried out with regard to the new language curriculum. Staff worked collaboratively on planning templates, presented and facilitated a staff in service day on the new language curriculum and mentored staff who have not yet worked with the new language curriculum.

Maths

- Maths week is an annual event in the school.
- A snap fair/ puzzle fair was held.
- A problem of the day was presented.
- Maths Art was completed throughout the classes.
- Each day had a Maths Theme.
- Infant classes collected the longest and heaviest item.

Music

The school choir performed at the sacraments and at the retirement mass of Mary Dunne. The school band performed at 6th class graduation and gave an end of year performance for all pupils.

Our thanks to all the staff and parents with expertise in music – who share their talents with the school community.

SESE

- Discover Science Award – all classes J.I. – 6th participated.
- Parents were invited to attend a Science Day on April 4th
- Awarded Discover Science and Maths Award June 2019

The post holders play a significant role in curricular development. Their roles are carried out in the school under four headings: Leading Learning and Teaching, Managing the Organisation, Leading School Development and Developing Leadership Capacity.

Maintenance Works

- Continuing work on the Fire Alarm system was undertaken throughout the year.
- Magnetic holdbacks fitted on doors
- 5 carpets were replaced
- Deep clean of the school over the summer holidays
- External walls cleaned
- Hedge cutting

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- Gutters cleaned
- Skip hire
- Shredding service
- Roof repair

Parents Council

Míle Buíochas to our hardworking Parents Council. They successfully organised a number of events including:

- Witch and Monster Walk – this has become a much anticipated annual event. Thanks to the children for their inventive costumes and staff and parents who make this an enjoyable fundraiser.
- Cinema Evening Sunday November 18th was a very successful event.

Monies raised was spent on:

- I.C.T. Equipment
- School Library Resources

The parents council also provided refreshments following the:

- First Communion + Confirmation ceremonies.
- Grandparents Day.
- 6th class Graduation Ceremony.
- Community night for the retirement of Mary Dunne.

Representatives of the P.A. were also involved in reviewing policy documents.

Financial Statement

The treasurer presents a financial report at each board meeting detailing Income and Expenditure for each month.

Details are provided of the spending of all Government Grants.

Monies raised by the Parents' Association are lodged in the school account for identified projects. A treasurer's report is presented annually at the A.G.M.

The financial recording and reporting is completed in line with guidelines provided by the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU).

A word from the children.

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I love Caragh School. It's a lovely school, all of the teachers, SNAs and everyone else is so nice.

The opportunities and facilities are outstanding and I couldn't have had a better primary school.

I'm sad to leave Caragh N.S. all the teachers and staff are really nice and I hope my teachers in secondary school are as nice.

There are so many great things I have enjoyed such as all the school tours, all the activities and sport that you can take part in.

I really liked secondary school and I hope secondary school is as enjoyable.