

# St John the Baptist BNS, Old Road, Cashel

## Board of Management – Annual Report 2022/23



June 2023

A chairde,

As Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management, I'm delighted to present this Annual Report to the school community. It has been another busy and eventful year and the Board, as it enters the final months of its five-year term of office, is pleased to communicate its **final** full year summary. A new Board will be constituted in November 2023 and will be tasked with continuing and completing the work begun by this Board. The next five years will be pivotal in the school's development and a vibrant and committed Board is vital to the success of the school.

**Meetings** - By the end of this school year, the Board of Management will have formally met on six occasions. Our final meeting took place on Tuesday 20 June.

**Board of Management Members 2022/23** - Chairperson – Monica Shannon, Bishop's Nominee – Fr Enda Brady, Principal – Will Ryan, Community Nominee 1 – Paddy Purtill, Community Nominee 2 – Julia Adamczak, Teachers' Nominee – Caitríona Crosse, Parent Nominee 1 – Marie Fitzgerald, Parent Nominee 2 – Sean O'Donoghue

### **Farewell**

The Board of Management would like to thank Sinéad Smyth (née Mullins) for her commitment and dedication to the school over the past 17 years. Sinéad resigned her post recently for family reasons although many of you will not have seen Sinéad in a number of years as she has been job sharing in Co. Limerick where she lives.

### **Staffing**

Congratulations to our HSCL Community Liaison Rachel Hayes who welcomed her first baby during the year. We also wish Alison Laffan well as she enters the final stages of her pregnancy. Our continued love and support to SNA Ms Úna Kinnane who is out on leave. Mr Molloy got married during the year and continues to thrive! Ms Crosse, our Board of Management colleague, will get married over the summer and we wish Caitríona the very best as she enters this new chapter in her life.

Our very best wishes to Mrs Sheahan and Ms Kelly who continue their career breaks for another year although it has been amazing to have Mrs Sheahan working with us in a part-time capacity to support our Ukrainian pupils and their families. Also going on career break this year is Ms Sinéad Lawless. We wish Sinéad and Cathal (Mr Moriarity, substitute teacher all this year!) the very best teaching in Abu Dhabi, a new and exciting adventure for them both.

Thank you to **all** our staff members for their dedication to our school and for their commitment to realising our school vision of **"the school community ag obair le chéile to be the best that we can be."** Interviews for temporary positions will be held over the summer by the school Principal, Board Chairperson and Independent Assessor appointed by St Senan's Diocesan Office.

### **Leadership and Management Team**

The LMT consists of Mr Will Ryan (Principal), Mrs Bríd Callanan (Deputy Principal), Mrs Sharon Perdue (Assistant Principal I), Katie Cowan (Assistant Principal II), Caitríona Crosse (APII), Jennifer O'Farrell (APII) and Pat Molloy (APII). A new API post holder will be appointed in September. The team meets every fortnight with DEIS action planning to the forefront of its work this year.

# St John the Baptist BNS, Old Road, Cashel

## Board of Management – Annual Report 2022/23



**Staff Training** - The Board is very grateful to all school staff who undertook a significant amount of further professional development and training throughout the school year. CPD is a very important part of any school and we have a professional development budget to encourage staff training in priority areas.

**Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying** are on the agenda of every Board of Management meeting. The Board welcomes any comments in relation to these two policies which are available on our school website @ [www.cashelbns.ie](http://www.cashelbns.ie). Co-incidentally, our website is currently being revamped and we hope to launch our new and improved site before the new academic year or certainly in Term 1 of 2023/24.

**Seomra na Rí ASD Class** - We moved into the modular accommodation on 21 November 2018 and we still await our new building extension. It has been a painfully slow process but the Board is delighted with the progress that has been made since Christmas. We hope to move into our new extension (2 ASD classes and 2 mainstream classes) in September 2024. The new car park/drop off zone will be a significant plus for our school communities as well.

**Attendance** – Our Deputy Principal Mrs Callanan has responsibility for attendance and attendance statistics and trends form part of the Principal's report at every meeting. Holidays during school time are strongly discouraged by the Board. Aladdin Connect has been endorsed by the Board as the new, principal method of communication between school and home. We urge all in the school community to make sure they have the Connect App set up. Class Dojo has served us so well, especially during Covid but will be discontinued over the summer as we work on getting the vast majority signed up for Connect and revamping our website.

**Pastoral Care** - Thank you to Father Enda Brady, our school chaplain, for his presence and unwavering support of our school community. His work with the sacramental classes is very meaningful, but Enda is there for us all regardless of our backgrounds.

**Amber Flag and Student Council** – The Board is kept up to date with the excellent work of the Student Leadership committees. Student voice is very important and the Principal keeps us all informed on what's going on with the boys during his comprehensive Principal's Report at each Board meeting. Comhghairdeas to our Amber Flag committee for their hard work on achieving our second consecutive Amber flag.

**Graduation** - 41 of our pupils leave very soon for pastures new. The Board would like to wish the boys and their families the very best as they start their new adventure. Thank you for everything and go well!

**The boys (why we all do what we do!)** - Probably the favourite part of our Board meetings is hearing about what's actually happening on the ground with the boys. We're amazed at the breadth of experiences that the boys are exposed to. We love hearing about reading achievements and the drive to get our boys reading for enjoyment. We loved following Colin O'Brien's outstanding achievements in spelling this year and Ben Fitzgerald's great accomplishment in making the Primary Game hurling team. We smiled, laughed and cried (well not quite!) as we followed the progress of our U13s as they got to the A Cumann na mBunscol final in Semple Stadium.

**Building & Summer Works**- No summer works in the pipeline, but building work on our extension will continue hopefully at pace over the summer months!

**Policy Development & DEIS** -Every year, many curriculum and organisational policies/plans are discussed and reviewed at Board level. This year was no exception. We are grateful to all members of the school community for engaging so readily as we all work on making our school the best that it can be. As we were designated DEIS status this year, the Board has been appraising the action planning undertaken by the staff. We are also delighted that all pupils now have access to a free hot lunch every day. We see our

# St John the Baptist BNS, Old Road, Cashel

## Board of Management – Annual Report 2022/23



new designation as a distinct advantage to ALL pupils in our community and look forward to engaging even further in the years ahead.

**Finance and Fundraising** – We are very grateful to you for your support of our fundraising efforts throughout the year. The Board itself hasn't fundraised extensively this year apart from the occasional 50/50 draw and our Annual Sponsored Walk (approx €3000 raised, thank you all so much!). Thank you, however, for all your support. It's a challenging time for families. Our Treasurer Paddy Purtill presents a Treasurer's report at each meeting, including an income and expenditure summary.

**Free Book Scheme** - The Board was delighted to learn of this new (long overdue!) scheme. Thank you to all the staff and Katie Cowan, post holder, for her work in getting all the book orders in. Not a simple job and all done very well! Your sons' books will be all here and ready for them in September!

**Parent Association** – The Parent Association has done phenomenal work again this year under the leadership of Rebecca Lenehan. Marie Fitzgerald (our Board colleague) and Jennifer O'Donnell have been two very active members of the Association who will finish up this year as their sons go on to secondary school. The Board is very grateful to them and to all active members for their very significant contribution to our school.

**Inspectorate** - The school had an "incidental" visit from the Inspectorate this year. The Inspector Grainne Cull arrived (unannounced as per usual for these type of visits) and visited three classrooms and spoke to many teachers and staff. She was very positive about the teaching and learning and the atmosphere of mutual respect, care and compassion for the boys in our care.

**School reopens** - School reopens on 1 September 2023. The Board of Management would like to wish all our school community the very best for the summer holidays.