



Loreto Primary School, Dalkey

Board of Management – Annual Report 2026



Curricular Development

Our SSE process this year has focussed on STEM. We had STEM assemblies with the LEGO league. The Dreamspace Ambassadors, sponsored by Microsoft, and in it's 3rd year, taught coding in the junior classes. We had an amazing SCIENCE Fair, led by 6th class and we invested in STEM materials and activities. One of the highlights was when the PA organised Mark the Science Guy to come and do 'cool' experiments for the classes.

School Improvement plan

2025 – 26 STEAM emphasis

2026 – 27 Wellbeing

The continued implementation of UFLI up to 2nd class led to better results in literacy and reading levels in general. The continued collaboration with parents for reading has been hugely beneficial for the children's reading levels. We are continuing to develop our approach to spelling and literacy in senior classes.

The revised Maths curriculum and learning approaches is a continuous learning curve for both pupils and teachers. The advantages of maths talk and advanced learning are encouraging.

We took part in 2 Irish initiatives – CLIL and an Gaelbhratach. Both encouraging and improving the use of 'Gaeilge' informally throughout the day. We will continue both of these initiatives next year.

We had our 4th year of a modern foreign language in the school. This will also continue next year.

We took part in the BIG SING for the 2nd year in a row, for the children from 3rd to 6th. A night of music, singing and fun. The choirs also added to the Religious sacramental masses, with beautiful choirs singing at Communion and Confirmation.

Achievements in Loreto

Comhghairdeas ó chroí to all who took part in the sporting events this year. The hockey won the league, the camogie team won Cumann na mBunscol, for the 2nd year in a row, The soccer teams won their leagues in 4th and 6th class. 15 children competed in Santry Athletics event and 7 came home with medals.

In Green schools, all the hard work paid off this year. We were awarded 2nd place in the BIG Travel challenge and we won the Fundraising award for our participation in the RETURN recycling awards. We received days out and monetary prizes for both

Our student council raised money for many charities, with a non-uniform day, reindeer food stall, and a cake sale.

Our sports day was a fabulous event, with lots of activities for fun and team spirit.

The engagement of all in sport throughout the year has been one of the best yet.

Parents' Association

Our major event this year was the opening of the new and wonderful playground. It is probably the playground with one of the nicest views in Ireland and it is an amazing facility for the children of Loreto.

The Board would like to acknowledge the parent generosity in fundraising and also the extremely generous financial support given through the **voluntary contributions total: €35,840**. Míle buíochas.

We would especially like to mention the work of Kerry O'Connell, who single-handedly prepared the grounds, built the fencing and finished the wonderful playground, with the bark. Míle buíochas!!



Loreto Primary School, Dalkey

Board of Management – Annual Report 2026



Board of Management 2023/'27

Chairperson	–	Caroline McNicholas
Treasurer	–	John Davis
Secretary	–	Fíona McKenna
Teacher Rep	–	Eimear Ní Néill
Parent Reps	–	Catriona Garde & John Davis
Community Reps	–	Jim Bracken Peter Woods

School Ethos

We had wonderful school masses this year for the beginning of our school year, and with the community, in preparation for the sacraments. We had a joyous carol service and nativity plays at Christmas. 6th class girls had their service of light and the sacrament of confirmation took with the Auxillary bishop Fr. Donal Roche.

Each class took turns to lead the school prayer services every Friday and in May, 6th class led us in daily prayer at the grotto in honour of Our Lady. On May 28th we had our May procession, visiting the grottos on the campus. Second class girls and boys from the Lighthouse made their first confession and First Holy communion in May with Fr. David Brough PP.

We also distributed ashes on Ash Wednesday and 4th class performed the story of the passion at Easter for the whole school.

We finished out the year with a graduation mass and celebration of 6th class girls in June. We maintained a close working relationship with the parish throughout the year.

We had children's voices shared through the following committees:

Student Council

Coiste Gaeilge

Dream space ambassadors

Active school's committee

Green school's committee

Next year we hope to extend that to a Wellbeing committee.

We had an amazing buddy system for the younger children to partner with an older pupil, this was also very successful.

Staffing

This year we had 3 members of staff on career break and 2 members of staff on maternity leave. We managed to cover all positions thanks to a retired teacher and 2 newly hired teachers. We also managed to retain the floating teacher to lead STEM and Music. 2026/27 we will also have 3 career breaks and 2 on maternity. Positions have not yet been filled.

Policy Development

We revised and reviewed the following policies:

- Bí Cineálta,
- Child Protection and Risk assessment,
- Health & Safety Policy,
- Admissions Policy,
- Assessment
- Digital Learning strategy,
- Acceptable Usage Policy
- Assessment Policy
- EPV policy
- GDPR policy

Summer Works/Buildings

This has been a very busy couple of years in regards to the building and upgrades.

Emergency works completed: All electrics replaced and rewired throughout the school, emergency doors on the external building replaced.

Emergency works in progress: (current)

- Main doors to main building
- conservatory to be replaced,
- full temporary fix on roof to take place

Climate action Summer works: (future)

- The whole roof to be upgraded and electricity car port to be installed.
- Infant yard to be upgraded.

Míle buíochas to all the school community for your cooperation and support. We wish you all a happy Summer. The school will reopen on Tuesday 1st September 2026.