

Agreed Report of the Board of Management

St. Raphaela's Secondary School - Board of Management Meeting - 21 September 2026

Apologies: Niamh Moore.

The minutes of the Board meetings held on 25 May 2026 and 17 August 2026 were approved. Matters arising were considered by the Board.

Principal's Report

The Board received the Principal's Report and welcomed the positive and settled start to the 2026/27 school year. Members noted the current enrolment of 640 students, including an intake of 116 First Year students, and acknowledged the work undertaken by staff in supporting the return to school.

The Board congratulated the Leaving Certificate Class of 2026 on their excellent results. Of the 90 students who completed the Leaving Certificate, four achieved over 600 points, 19 achieved between 500 and 600 points and 30 achieved between 400 and 500 points. Members also noted that 55.1% of all Higher Level grades achieved were H1-H3. The Board welcomed the detailed subject-by-subject analysis undertaken as part of ongoing subject planning and school self-evaluation.

Members welcomed the successful refurbishment of the staffroom over the summer and acknowledged the work involved in improving the facilities available to staff.

The Board noted the appointment of six new staff members and welcomed the continuation of Japanese in Fifth and Sixth Year, supported by PPLI, together with the introduction of Chinese in Transition Year. Members also noted the allocation of leadership and coordinator posts for the year and the forthcoming recruitment process to fill a number of vacancies.

The Board warmly welcomed the success of the new First Year induction programme. Members commended the Year Head, Sixth Year Prefects and staff involved in supporting students through a calm and carefully paced introduction to school life. The Board also acknowledged the very successful First Year bonding afternoon organised by the Prefects.

The Board welcomed the establishment of the new collaborative AEN Team and the development of new referral, communication and record-keeping systems, including the link-teacher model for each year group. Members were particularly pleased to note that St. Raphaela's has been selected by the NCSE to receive Sustained In-School Therapy, with Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy support due to commence during the term.

Transition Year

The Board noted the strong start to Transition Year for the 104 students participating in the programme, including a range of educational, wellbeing and digital citizenship activities. Members also welcomed the collaboration with St. Benildus on this year's musical, Legally Blonde.

Sport and Extracurricular

Members welcomed the success of Clubs and Societies Day, with more than twenty activities represented, and commended staff for the wide range of free extracurricular opportunities available to students. The Board also noted preparations for the Debs reception and Open Evening, together with the forthcoming Fifth and Sixth Year Politics and Society trip to Brussels.

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the previous meeting was noted and considered by the Board.

Financial Report

The Board reviewed and approved the financial report and budget. Members noted that the school's finances continue to be well managed and that balances remain healthy. The Board agreed to continue monitoring reserves as part of its ongoing financial planning.

Child Protection Oversight Report

The Child Protection Oversight Report was presented to the Board and reviewed in accordance with Department of Education procedures. The Board also confirmed the completion of the required child protection training and approved the arrangements for the Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person.

Bí Cineálta

The Board received and reviewed the Bí Cineálta report in accordance with Department of Education procedures.

Student Welfare and Discipline

The Board was informed of matters relating to student welfare and discipline, which were addressed in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Code of Behaviour

The Board reviewed and ratified the updated Code of Behaviour. Members noted amendments reflecting current school practices, including updated punctuality arrangements, communication through VShare, the restorative and reflective approach to detention, revised provisions relating to healthy eating and jewellery, and the inclusion of the Free School Books Scheme.

Staffing and Governance

The Board ratified the membership of interview panels.

Parents' Association

The Board received the first Parents' Association report of the school year and noted the success of the recent uniform sale. Members thanked the Parents' Association for its support of the Debs reception and its continued contribution to school life. Thanks also to the Parents' Association for their help this coming Thursday 24th, Open evening.

Acknowledgement

The Board commended the positive and long-standing relationship between staff and students. Members also complimented students on their excellent behaviour at the opening school Mass.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place on 19 October 2026.