

Coláiste Chiaráin



Nearc le chéile

# Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone Board of Management Meeting

Thursday 27th November 2025

6.30pm

Venue: Online

## Agreed Report

- **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meetings were shared in advance. There were no matters arising.

- **Correspondence**

A letter regarding a proposed Diocesan schools group insurance policy was read. From 2026 all diocesan schools can avail of the scheme which should lead to a premium reduction as well as community rating protection.

- **Finance**

*accounts 2024/2025*

The accountants are currently completing an audit of 2024/2025 accounts.

*accounts 2025/2026*

- The income and expenditure reports show a small increase in voluntary contributions this year.

*Fundraising*

The car draw fundraiser will commence in January 2026. It is planned to have the draw in May, with the aim of raising funds to complete the front pitch redevelopment.

*Pension auto-enrolment*

All school employees will be auto-enrolled on the state pension scheme in January 2026.

- **Admissions update**

The school has completed its admissions process for autism class places. A waiting list is in operation for any applicants that were not offered a place.

The mainstream admissions process is also completed, with all places offered for 1st year 2026/2027.

The school has piloted a new vsware online admissions portal. While there were a number of technical issues, the paperless admissions system has been largely successful.

- **School Self Evaluation - School Improvement Plan**

*ANSEO attendance strategy*

The school has commenced the new attendance strategy as part of our school improvement plan and ANSEO pilot.

Anseo helps school leaders:

- Understand school-wide attendance patterns
- Plan better ways to support students
- Set realistic goals to reduce absenteeism

Tier Classifications:

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Attendance Rate</b>	<b>Goal for Schools</b>
Tier 1	Absent <5%	≥ 80% of students      Approx 0-10 days absent per year
Tier 2	Absent 5-10%	≤ 15% of students      Approx 11-20 days absent per year
Tier 3	Absent > 10%	≤ 5% of students      Approx > 20 days absent per year

The action plan developed has prioritised junior students in Tier 1 and Tier 2.

Strategies implemented so far:

- i. October: Rewarding 100% attendance -prize giving and draw
- ii. November: class attendance drive
- iii. Visual communication to parents and students of good attendance - posters/banners, emails.
- iv. Communication of the impact of poor attendance at parent teacher meetings and school reports

### *Wellbeing improvement initiative*

Elephant in the Room, in partnership with the newly established Irish charity, the Kyne Foundation, has announced the launch of the Schools Mental Wellbeing Initiative. This groundbreaking initiative will involve an elephant sculpture that will be permanently placed in secondary schools as a conversation-starting symbol, paired with educational resources for participating schools across Ireland. As part of the overall wellbeing efforts of each school, the aim is to equip students and teachers with tools to promote positive mental wellbeing and foster community engagement.

Students will fundraise to support the development of the elephant sculpture and related resources, actively contributing to the effort locally and extending the impact. Each participating school will receive an elephant sculpture along with supporting materials designed to engage students through art, highlight mental well-being supports, and provide signposting to external services where needed.

The school has been successful in receiving a 4ft Elephant and in conjunction with a student group plan its design, painting and promotion in the school.

- **Next Meeting**

5th February 2026