



St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School

Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

25th May 2026

Dear staff and families,

On behalf of the Board of Management, I am writing to you today with an update in relation to our autism class provision. We have been working hard over the recent years to secure a second autism class and to get approval for a permanent building. As many of you will be aware, there has been many false starts and set-backs, especially since our original permanent building proposal was halted by the Department of Education and Youth (DEY) in October 2024.

However, I am delighted to announce that we have been sanctioned a second autism class by the NCSE. This autism class will open in September 2026. There has been extensive communication between us and the DEY in recent months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local TDs Simon Harris, John Brady and Jennifer Whitmore for their support, lobbying and advocacy on behalf of our school. This is particularly good news for the families currently on our waiting list. Offers of school places will be issued this week to these families. Preparatory work for this class has already begun, including staff recruitment and the repurposing of an existing classroom, so that we will be able to provide a high-quality learning environment in September.

The Board is still engaging with the DEY in relation to a decision on our permanent building. Although a decision has not yet been made, the DEY have proposed an interim plan. This would mean our very old prefabs would be demolished and replaced by a new 2 SEN modular building, while we wait for the permanent building to be built. Feasibility site visits are being carried out this week by a DEY-appointed project management company.

I would like to thank you all for your patience and cooperation throughout this process. While I'm optimistic that we are finally moving forward, I will keep you posted on developments as and when they happen.

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie McGovern, Principal

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