



**Holywell Educate Together National School
Board of Management
Annual Report 2024/25**



Board of Management Members 2023/27

Chairperson	Denis Brennan
Treasurer	Carolyn Barnes
Secretary	Maria Boyne
Teacher Nominee	Claire Roe
Parent Nominees	Johnathan Harris Emma Walsh
Community Nominees	Ken Duffy Gráinne Mc Kenna

The Board of Management held six meetings this school year, 02/10/24, 20/11/24, 29/01/25, 12/03/25, 07/05/25 & 18/6/25

Child Protection in Holywell ETNS

Roles & Responsibilities:

Maria Boyne: Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Cathal Manning: Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)

Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended in October 2023 Anti-bullying Policy reviewed in October 2023.

Finances

School accounts were certified and submitted to Revenue as per the FSSU requirements for the end of year 2023/24. A report for parents for the school year 2024/25 will be available in the new school year when all payments have been made.

Building Issues

In addition to the risk assessment carried out on the school building & general school site, in August 2024, along with the various maintenances contracts continually done, the following remedial works and updates were completed:

Fire doors inspected and repaired

Floor area on section of first floor remediated by ABM builders

Window openings repaired

Main administration office flooring replaced

Equipment in the para-educational room beside the autism classes replaced

Fire extinguishers replaced

Area in yard next to exit door at room 6 identified as 'Minnie's Graden' in memory of Michelle Mc Keown.

Additional astro yard installed next to the poly-tunnel.

Policy Development & Review

- Child Protection Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment reviewed and amended.
- Bí Cineálta Anti-bullying Policy drafted and ratified
- Attendance Policy & Strategy & Report for 2024/25
- School Tours Policy
- Amendment to the Admission's Policy (to include new NCSE provisions for autism classes)
- Ratification of 'Working Together- Ag Obair Le Chéile' document

Thanks to all the members of the school community who took part in the work

School Ethos & Child Centred Education

The Board of Management continues to support and help families. Examples of this are:

- Waiving of school fees & costs of school trips for specific families
- Establish payment plan with families for private assessments
- Fund art therapy for students as a Trauma Informed School
- Fund music therapy for students in the autism classes
- Fund the Nurture Schools programme in the school
- Fund a new astro surfaced yard in the garden
- Fund horse-riding in Corballis farm for student in the autism classes
- Subsidise trips for the summer programme
- Pay for treats for the whole school (Cadbury selection boxes at Christmas, ice-cream van in June, pay for coach hire for senior classes to attend GAA football final of both girls and boys' teams
- Purchased a new class set of i-pads for the school, making three class sets of i-pads for the school to enhance the student's digital literacy development.

The Student Council were elected this year under the guidance and support of Assistant Principal Erica Hogan. Student Council members for 2024/25 are;

1st: Sonia Rahman

2nd: Lea Al Wraidat

3rd: Mustafa Bhalli

4th: Katie Keogh

5th: Guillem Martella Tortajada

6th: Arianna Bonsignori

6th: Joana MacDonald

6th: Daniel Stoyanov

Members of the Student Council worked on the children's version of the new Anti-bullying Policy 'Bí Cineálta' and ran a cake sale in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital, and for the fundraising campaign for the new astro surface on the yard.

The school applied to renew its Yellow Flag for Diversity and Inclusion. A Yellow Flag committee of students was formed to help develop an anti-racism policy in our school. The committee also brought their parents to school for a meeting and to help prepare for our first Multi-cultural day since 2015.

Holywell ETNS participated in the fourth year of the Nurture School Programme which offers support for children who might be experiencing anxiety or trauma in their lives. The Programme is subsidized by Educate Together and Dublin City University. Two teachers, Alison O'Brien and Erica Hogan oversee the programme in the school.

The annual 'Winter Concert' took place on December 19th the 6th class graduation takes place on June 24th and 'Holywell's Got Talent' takes place on June 25th.

Well-being is part of the school Improvement Plan, which also complements the Department of Education's Well-being Policy Statement and Framework for Practice. It also supports the new 'Bí Cineálta' anti-bullying policy from the Department.

The school continued to provide weekly support to specific children in our school art therapist, Andrea Clare Plunkett, and then Sofia Nikodem. Music therapist Molly Carr began working with students in the autism classes.

Junior Infants parents and Senior Infants parents joined us for coffee mornings back in October, with parents from various classes coming to bake with their children's classes throughout the year.

Parents and guardians attended the information mornings at the start of the school year to meet the new class teachers and were also invited to attend the monthly assemblies to celebrate our core values and achievements throughout the year.

Teacher-led after-school clubs also resumed last September, offering students a chance to participate in clubs based on sport, cookery, crafts, baking, science, coding, music etc.

The school is embedding the practices as a 'Restorative Practice Learning Community' in how it deals with conflict and behaviour management.

The school was fortunate to have been chosen to work with Education Welfare Officer on an intervention programme to support families of children experiencing issues with school attendance.

The school held Parent Teacher Meetings in late November 2024.

We held the Junior Infants Play Date & Information Session for new parents on June 10th 2025.

School Achievements

The school received formal recognition for its work in obtaining the Gaelbratach, an award in recognition of the efforts made by students and staff in speaking Irish and in the promotion of the Irish culture in the school. The Coiste Gaeilge/Irish Committee was led by Saidhbhín Mulchrone, Alexine Greene, Fiona Murray, Niamh Nic Gearailt, Alison Lynch, Mark Brennan, and Sarah Markham. Various activities and events were organised in the school throughout the year, culminating with the big celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish week where we held a céilí mór and welcomed the musicians from Craobh Sheán Teacy of

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. We welcomed the Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Brian Mc Donagh to the school on Friday June 6th to present the Gaelbhreach flag to the school.

The visit for the Yellow Flag application on diversity and inclusion, took place on Friday June 13th.

The school continues to participate in the hot meals programme with Glanmore Foods as the school supplier. Menus have changed and adapted according to the request of parents.

For the first time in the history of the school, both the Boys Senior GAA football team and the Girls Senior GAA team won the finals of the Fingal Leagues in Abbotstown on May 13th 2025. Coaches Luke Lennon and Sarah Markham coached the teams during lunch breaks throughout the year.

The school's athletic teams also participated in Fingal Athletics League in Newbridge House in May. Again, the teams were coached during school break times and after school by Eddie Sweeney, Mark Lawless, Kayleigh Golden and Luke Lennon.

Photography company 'County Photos' visited the school in September to photograph all students and the children in the pre-school.

All three 4th classes attended the creative writing workshop 'Fighting Words' in the City Centre, along with 6th class students visited the Hugh Lane Art Gallery in town.

The school played host to teachers from Slovenia and Poland as part of the mobility project on Erasmus.

Tours & Outings

Annual school tours took place this year, with the following venues being visited:

Junior Infants- Newbridge Farm, Donabate

Senior Infants-Newbridge Farm, Donabate

1st Class- Dublin Zoo

2nd Class- Navan Adventure Centre

3rd Class- Fort Lucan

4th Class- -' Alive Outside', Kilruddery

5th Class -'Emerald Park'

6th Class--'Emerald Park'

Autism Classes- 'Explorium

Children in the autism classes visited 'Bounce and Beyond', as well as 'Fun Galaxy'. Each class also completed a six week block in Corballis Farm Horse Trekking and Therapeutic Riding Centre.

62 6th class children also went to the Donegal Gaeltacht in Rann Féirste in May, accompanied by staff members Joshua Jacob, Bronagh Leddy & Richie Gleeson

In February, 5th class students took part in the Peace Proms concert in the RDS, under the guidance of Stuart Purcell.

The school launched it's new school website. Thanks to Mark Reynolds for organising this.

The 'Big Dig' also visited the school in the spring and worked with first and second classes.

'Seachtapas' a show for younger children through the medium of Irish visited the school in March.

In March, the school held its first art exhibition in the hall, which was overseen by Eddie Sweeney.

The week of June 9th, the school held Active Week, to incorporate the targets for the Active Flag renewal. It also held the annual school walk around Holywell. Sports Day also took place on June 11th, on the school grounds for the junior classes and on Holywell pitches for the older students.

Students in 5th & 6th classes completed a workshop called 'Don't be mean behind the screen' aimed at educating children on appropriate online behaviour and cyber bullying.

We held the 6th class graduation ceremony on June 24th, with a formal ceremony and a disco and pizza for the students.

New Developments at Holywell ETNS

The planned extension of the autism classes for the 4th autism class changed at the latter part of the school year. Following campaigning of the National Council for Special Education and the Department of Education, the school was sanctioned to open a 5th autism class in response to supporting the needs of students currently enrolled in the school.

The Department offered the school a new modular building to be located in the area where the poly-tunnel is. The modular classrooms will house the fourth and fifth autism classes. It is envisaged the accommodation will be ready at the end of this year.

The school will participate in the Safer Routes to school initiative with Fingal County Council.

The school has also been appointed three new Assistant Principal IIs in the school's Leadership and Management Team, Richie Gleeson, Suzie Lewis and Alison Lynch.

The school were delighted to have the opportunity to work with artist Katie Spiers on a number of art projects. Katie is working with Fiona Murray and Fiona Lavelle's classes on some fun pieces of art.

We welcomed the opportunity to avail of free taster classes from Back Street Dance Company, as well as complimentary trips to 'Bounce and Beyond' for our students in the autism classes.

The school will again run the school-based Summer Programme for Children with Additional and/or Complex Needs for the first two weeks of July, with Eileen Gamble as the manager of the programme. Also, the school will run the summer programme for children at risk of educational disadvantage, with Erica Hogan organising the programme.

The school has applied for funding with the DAA for equipment to develop the outdoor play area for children in the junior part of the school.

Staff will undergo training with the Kiva anti-bullying programme, to complement the work already in place for the new Bí Cineálta- Anti-bullying Procedures in schools

The school has applied to participate in the 'Anseo' programme for the next school year in order to improve student attendance and reduce absenteeism.

Curricular Development

The New Primary Maths Curriculum

The school closed for one day on April 4th to facilitate the second teacher training in the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Bí Cineálta- Anti-bullying Procedures Training

Following the introduction by the Department of Education of the revised Bí Cineálta- Anti-bullying Procedures, the school closed for a half day for training and policy formation.

Primary Language Curriculum- Sustained support

Associates from Oide, provided sustained support on four occasions, to teachers on the implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum. Teachers worked on the transfer of skills element of the curriculum, as well as the new approach to spelling and phonics in the infant classes.

A new phonics programme introduced by Keira Hillary is being implemented in the infant classes, as well as revise spelling plan in classes 1st & 2nd .

The school has applied to participate in a **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) project for Irish** in the 2025/26 school year.

Continual Professional Development

The Board of Management has invested heavily this year on staff training and upskilling with the following courses completed:

- Nurture Schools
- Anti-racism Training to complement the Yellow Flag renewal
- Drama workshop
- Braincalm training with Brenda Cassidy
- Restorative Practice- site license to support school implementation
- Child Protection training- remote training for ANAs & in-person training for teacher
- MAPA Training- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training (Train the Trainer training & refresher training) Understanding Behaviour Seminar- NCSE
- Friends for Life Training- NEPS
- Wilson Reading Intervention Programme- training for two teachers
- First Aid training for all teachers & ANAs
- Anaphylaxis training for senior management
- Nurture schools training
- Dignity in the workplace training with 'Role Players'

Staffing

Teachers

Career Breaks 2024/25

Aoileann Quinlan

Ronan Mc Donnell

Job-share arrangements 2024/25:

Barbara O'Kelly & Bronwyn Kelly

Amanda Appleby & Louise Lynch

Special Needs Assistants

Career Breaks 2024/25

Lisa Gilmartin

Job-share arrangements 2024/25

Mandy Johnson & Jessie Finlay Maguire

Cronagh Connolly & Yvonne Sweeney

Teacher Aedín Hayes resigned in June 2024 to continue her teaching in the UAE and Michael Davitt resigned to take up a teaching position in Co. Kildare in September 2024. His position as Assistant Principal II became also vacant. In November, Luke Lennon took up the permanent position vacated by Michael.

Parent Teacher Guardian Association & Parental Involvement

Sharon Roche, Jill Gallagher and Lorraine Byrne continued their work with the PTGA.

The PTGA ran the 'Christmas card' appeal, as well as a giving a full week of their time to run the Annual Scholastic Book Fair (a special thanks to Lorraine).

A bumper disco was held by the PTGA in the hall at both St. Valentine's Day and on St. Patrick's weekend for the children and was a huge success.

A Gardening club for parents was established, as well as yoga classes were also organised for parents by Erica in the community centre.

Tony McKay, pharmacist, and father of Beau in 5th class, volunteered with his wife Cronia, to administer the flu vaccine to students whose parents gave their consent.

Continuation of the Holywell ETNS Parent's Faith Formation Committee led by Róisín Kelly.

Thanks to all our parents & grandparents who kindly came to read to the infants, participate in Maths week activities, and especially everyone who joined us on bank holiday Monday, May 5th for an amazing multi-cultural day.

Thank You/Míle Buíochas

On behalf of the Board of Management of Holywell Educate Together National School, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to each and every member of our school community.

To our **teachers** – thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and care in nurturing and guiding our children throughout the year. Your commitment makes a lasting difference in their lives.

To our **non-teaching staff** – thank you for the essential support you provide every day. From the administrative staff Leona and Martina to our caretaker Tom and housekeeper Flavia, all our amazing ANAs, who take such good care of some of our most vulnerable students, your work ensures our school runs smoothly and safely.

To our **parents and guardians** – thank you for your continued partnership, encouragement, and trust. Your involvement and support play a vital role in creating the positive, inclusive environment that makes Holywell ETNS so special.

And to our wonderful **children** – thank you for your enthusiasm, kindness, curiosity, and the joy you bring to our school each day. You are the heart of Holywell ETNS, and we are so proud of all you have achieved this year.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and joyful **summer break**. May it be filled with sunshine, laughter, and time to recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year ahead on **August 28th 2025**.