



The Red Door School

An **DORAS** **DEAR**S

Monkstown Grove, Monkstown Avenue, Monkstown, Co. Dublin.

Email: admin@thereddoorschool.com

Phone: 01 6637532

Agreed Report BOM March 2025

Welcome

The board of management would like to extend warm welcome to all new staff members and students who have joined The Red Door School since the start of this school year.

New Administrative Deputy Principal

Gráinne McDonnell has been appointed to the role of Administrative Deputy Principal at The Red Door School. She previously worked at St. Michael's House Special National School in Ballymun for 17 years, teaching students with additional and complex needs and autism. She participated in a national pilot program (2021-23) focused on post-school transitions for students with special needs. Having trained in Blackrock, she is excited to return to the area and appreciates the warm welcome she has received from The Red Door School.



Health and Safety

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephen Hanley and Evin Delayney, for their work on the Board of Management of The Red Door School over several years. Many thanks to new board member, Eva Perez for recently taking on the role of Health and Safety Officer on the current board.

The annual review of the school's health and safety has taken place. Checklists are being created by Deputy Principal, Grainne who, as staff nominee on the Board of Management has taken on the role of Health and Safety Officer in the school. Volunteers from the school staff are currently being sought with a view to forming a Health and Safety Committee to discuss and consider solutions to health and safety concerns as they arise.

The Annual Health and Safety Statement has been ratified by the Board at our latest meeting and will be posted on the school website.

We welcome our new school nurse Joanna Tomlin, who started in her role on 4th March this term.

First Aid training is to be organised as soon as possible for administrative deputy principal, Grainne and our school secretary, Cliana Smyth. This will bring to four the number of staff who can administer first aid as well as our school nurse, Joanna.

Curriculum/Teaching and Learning

IEP March reviews are currently being completed and sent to parents.

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Roll Number: 20381D

Principal: Conan Byrne

Chairperson: Fiona McLoughlin

Patron Body: Autism Ireland



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Many of our staff attended training last October on Understanding Autism and Complex Needs and in November on Supporting Communication Differences.

All staff, including bus-escorts, participated in CPI Verbal intervention training during a school closure day in February. We have received confirmation of Day two of the training in "Safety Intervention" scheduled for 19th May.

During a half-day closure in February, all classroom staff received initial training on the new NCSE Relate Programme. During a full day closure in March teachers received a second day of training in the New Primary Mathematics Curriculum while SNAs were further inducted in the Relate Programme. On the same day, newer staff were given input on universal support for students.

A half-day closure is scheduled for 21st May during which The Middleton Centre for Autism will provide training for the whole staff on the topic of "Reframing Behaviour".

Two whole staff training sessions are to be provided by the CDNT team before Summer. On 1st April, SLTs will provide initial input on Supporting Students' Communication: Using a Total Communication Approach and on 30th May the focus will be specifically on supporting students using AAC.

Finally, following on from the PE programme provided last term by external PE teacher Donal Norton, the school is looking forward to welcoming him back after the Easter holidays for another 6 week term of PE fun!

School Learning and Development

At its latest meeting the Board ratified updates to the Child Safeguarding and Safety Statements.

The school's In-School Leadership Team will review *Bí-Cinealta* in the Summer term. This is a new, mandatory, anti-bullying policy which is to be drawn up with involvement from all members of the school community. It needs to be in place by September '25 so the aim is to ratify and adopt it at the final board meeting this year.

Through continuous engagement and persistent advocacy with the Department of Education and the NCSE, The Red Door School has successfully secured support from two Behaviour Practitioners provided by the NCSE.

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These external Behaviour Practitioners have been actively working with school management and staff to enhance our support systems. Their role includes providing training to staff, assisting in the implementation of universal supports across classes, and strengthening the overall learning environment for our students.

This development marks a significant step forward in ensuring that our school community is equipped with the resources and expertise needed to provide the best possible education and support for our students.

Board of Management 2023-2027

Members of the Board of Management are as follows:

Fiona McLoughlin - Chairperson/Patron Nominee

Eva Perez - Community Nominee

Laura Whitty - Parent Nominee

Vacant position - Community Nominee 2

Conan Byrne - Principal/Secretary to the Board

Grainne McDonnell - Staff Nominee

Vacant position - Parent Nominee 2

Vacant position - Patron Nominee

The school is seeking nominations for vacant positions of **Parent Representative no. 2**, **Community Representative no. 2** and a **Patron Representative**. If the school community is aware of any individuals who may possess skills or interests that may benefit the school or have a vested interest in supporting students with special educational needs, please ask them to get in contact with the school office. The current Board of Management will sit until 2027.

Staffing

As many are aware, there is a significant shortage of substitute teachers and SNAs available in the Dublin area, especially in special education. This continues to have an impact on the school. If the school community is aware of any qualified and suitable teachers or SNAs, please ask them to apply to the school office directly, to the principal's email.

principal@thereddoorschool.com

Following an exceptional review of our school's SNA allocation last year—and dedicated advocacy by the Principal and Chairperson with members of the Special Education Unit in the Department of Education, and the NCSE—we are pleased to share that The Red Door School has received a significant increase in our overall SNA allocation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Our allocation has increased from 18 SNAs to 23.5 SNAs. At present, all positions have been filled for the remainder of the school year, with the exception of one 0.5 SNA post.

In addition to this, we have also been granted an exceptional teaching post for this school year. This achievement is a direct result of the continued pressure and advocacy placed on the Department of Education to recognise and address the needs of our school community.

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Child Protection

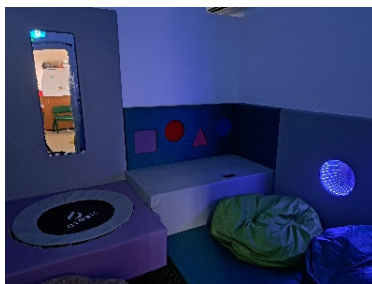
Per the Child Protection statement, last ratified by the Board of Management in March 2025

The Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection is **Conan Byrne**

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person for Child Protection is **Gráinne McDonnell**

Fundraising

A fundraiser, table quiz night organised by BOM Chairperson Fiona McLoughlin, Hilary Stapleton, Michelle Gaine and Michelle Corry in November was a resounding success and over €30,000 was raised for the school! We really appreciate the time, care, dedication and hard work that went into it and want to give special thanks to staff and parents who helped on the night. Students are already benefitting from and enjoying the first three of five sensory rooms being funded through the collective efforts of our school community.



Voluntary Contributions

The Board of Management would like to express thanks to parents for the voluntary contributions made thus far.

Due to the individual nature of our pupils' educational programmes, personalised resources are needed for each child. Parental contributions reduce the cost to the school of providing such resources (eg laminating pouches, Velcro, colour photocopying, photo printing etc.) as well as the materials needed for arts and crafts, sensory activities and textbooks (where relevant).

The suggested annual voluntary contribution set by the Board of Management is €250 but we welcome whatever figure families can afford, in one lump sum or in instalments across the school year.

The school's preferred method is via bank transfer, but we are grateful to receive donations by whatever method best suits parents. Should you wish to transfer online, our bank details are as follows:

A/C NAME: The Red Door School
IBAN: IE52 BOFI 9013 3569 5797 27
BIC: BOFIE2D

Please use your child's name as the reference if you choose to transfer online and

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Many thanks for your support of the school.

*The Board of Management,
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