



Spa National School

The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

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Board of Management 2015 - 2019

November 19th, 2019

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

You will be aware that the 2015/19 term of office for all school boards of management in Ireland will conclude within the next fortnight. At its final meeting, the outgoing board of Spa N.S. agreed to issue a report to all members of the school community with details of the work overseen and completed by the board over the past four years.

Infrastructure: The board is very proud of the infrastructural improvements in the school which have been completed since 2015.

- Construction of protective casing around school's oil tank
- Installation of new floor covering in three classrooms replacing old carpets.
- Purchase and Installation of Promethean Activ Panels in every classroom in Spa N.S.
- Refit of 20 P.C. stations in the school's senior I.C.T. room
- Purchase and installation of new boiler in the school.
- Completion of negotiations and securing opportunity to purchase extension to school site.
- Installation of new E fibre broadband connection to the school.
- Completion of application to DES for full plumbing refit in older half of the school.

Finance: The attainment of these improvements has been due mainly to the ability of school management to work in close partnership with the Department of Education and secure important grant aid as well as the huge success of fundraising efforts by the school community at vital junctures. The board has always been vigilant to ensure

- that school resources were managed appropriately and that the very best value for money was achieved on monies spent on all projects.
- that the school accounts were maintained on a sound financial footing.
- that all school's accounts were certified annually by an independent accountancy firm.

Staffing: The school's staffing level has increased in the last few years and the board was delighted to appoint

- Ms. Jacqui Kelly and Ms. Lorna Hickey to full time teaching positions.
- Mrs. Valerie Linehan as an Special Duties Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Sharon O Sullivan to a full time S.N.A. position within the school.

Policy Development: Over the past four years, the board has worked to regularly review and update the school plan. This plan sets out the educational philosophy of the school, its aims and how it proposes to achieve them. The School Plan is not a static document. It evolves in the light of the changing and developing needs of the school community as well as regular directives and circulars received from the Department of Education. The following school policies have been ratified by the board since 2015.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration of Medication• Anti Bullying• Code of Behaviour• Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health & Safety• Homework• In School Management• Acceptable Usage Policy
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Allocation • Critical Incidents • Data Protection and Record Keeping • E.P.V. Days • Enrolment & Admissions • Exemptions – Irish • G.D.P.R. • Hire & Use of School & Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Support • Mobile Phone & Electronic Games • Nutrition • Parent/Teacher Communication & Complaints • Phone: Staff & Student • Special Education • Uniform & Personal Appearance
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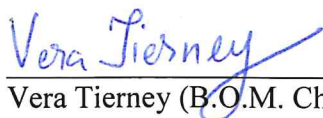
School Self Evaluation: The staff has completed a lot of work, on further improving the attainment standards in literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge as part of the school's self evaluation process since 2015. The school principal has regularly discussed in detail with the board the targets set for improving learning outcomes in these subject areas, and how well these targets were being achieved. The Board is very grateful to the staff for their efforts in this area. As a result, School Self-Evaluation Reports in Literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge have been prepared and School Improvement Plans in these subjects have been / are now being implemented.

Thank you! The board would like to sincerely thank

- the staff members for the excellent standards in teaching and learning being set in the school and for the wonderful care and support being provided to all students in Spa N.S.
- the Parents Association and community for their efforts in supporting the day to day work in the school, in organising and assisting different fundraising drives as well as promoting the positive culture within the school community.
- those people from the wider community who have always given their time so generously to visit and support different school initiatives and projects.
- our school principal, Mr. Peter Linehan for his leadership and his unwavering commitment to Spa N.S., its pupils, teachers and parents.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank my fellow board members (Joe Rogers, Mary Ellen Foley, Amanda Bentley Curran, Antoinette Boyd, Stephen O Sullivan, Berna Waldron, Peter Linehan & Fr. Pat Crean Lynch) for all of the time and effort they have invested in their roles over the past four years. I would like to wish the new board of Management every success in their future endeavours. Finally may I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas!

Yours sincerely,



Vera Tierney (B.O.M. Chairperson 2015 – 2019)