



Spa National School

The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

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Board of Management 2019 - 2023

November 18th, 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

You will be aware that the 2019/23 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 final 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 2019.

- Purchase of 0.75-acre extension to the school site.
- Construction of new boundary fencing around this extension and installation of new entrances to the site.
- Establishment of new 'Biodiversity Garden' on this site.
- Purchase and installation of new "Agility Trail" on this site.
- Installation of new tar macadam surface on the junior play yard.
- Installation of new bike shelter just off the junior play yard.
- Installation of new yard play markings on both play yards.
- Purchase and installation of new boiler in the school.
- Installation of new whole school heat distribution system in the school.
- Installation of new security door lock system for the main access doors in the school.
- Installation of new E fibre broadband connection to the school.
- Purchase of new P.C. stations and laptops/ chrome books for use in every classroom in the school.
- Installation of new pedestrian crossing at the front of the school.
- Securing Dept of Education funding to allow for the construction of a new classroom and two special education rooms on the school grounds
- Securing extra Dept of Education funding to allow for the construction of a new waste water treatment unit for the whole school.
- Completion of a wide variety of extra maintenance works also carried out on site.

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 under the stewardship of its treasurer 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 submitted annually for review by the Financial Supports Services Unit.

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

- Mr. Padraig Walsh to his position as caretaker in Spa N.S.
- Mrs. Rebecca Ryan to her position as secretary in Spa N.S.
- Mr. Conor Walsh to consecutive fixed term teaching contracts.
- Mrs. Mary Ellen Foley as Special Duties Assistant Principal

- Ms. Deirdre Hannafin and Mrs. Patricia Breen Sugrue to full time S.N.A. positions within the school.

The B.O.M. would also like to remember and acknowledge the contribution made by former caretaker Mr. Pat Cotter and former secretary Mrs Mary Brennan to Spa N.S down through the years.

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 B.O.M has always actively reviewed and updated the different sections of the school plan.

- Vision, Mission & Ethos
- General Details
- Practices & Procedures
- Administrative Policies
- Curricular Policies
- School Development Plan

The following administrative school policies have been reviewed and ratified by the board since 2019.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of Medication • Anti Bullying • Code of Behaviour • Child Protection • Class Allocation • Critical Incidents • Data Protection and Record Keeping • E.P.V. Days • Admissions • Exemptions – Irish • G.D.P.R. • Hire & Use of School & Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety • Homework • In School Management • Acceptable Usage Policy • Special Education • Mobile Phone • Nutrition • Parent/Teacher Communication & Complaints • SNA & Intimate Care Needs • 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 Gaelige since 2019. The school principal has regularly discussed in detail with the board the targets set for improving learning outcomes in all subject areas, and how well these targets were being achieved. Mr. Linehan has also continuously updated the board on the implementation of school improvement plans in digital learning, Wellbeing, Primary Language Curriculum & the new Maths Curriculum as well as the school’s participation and progress in other curricular and extra-curricular areas. All of this work requires incredible commitment and the board is very grateful to the staff for their efforts in all of these areas.

Covid 19: March 12th 2020 will still be remembered as the day that so much changed in our world. The Covid 19 virus turned everyone’s daily and weekly routines upside down and Spa N.S. was no different. The board is very proud of the manner in which the school community worked together and supported its members at this critical time. Huge credit must go to everyone who played their part in

- Responding so effectively to the sudden school closures and supporting the school community throughout.
- Organising and coordinating the school’s online teaching and learning programme.
- Maintaining strong supportive home school links during this difficult time.
- Compiling and implementing the school Covid Response plan.
- Introducing the recommended safety precautions as part of the Return to School plan.

- Working so hard to deal as sensitively as possible with all concerns and worries at the time.

There is no doubt that it was a most stressful time, but also a time when I feel our school motto, “Ní neart go cur le chéile” shone through.

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(s) 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, Ciara O Reilly, Amanda Bentley Curran, Stephen O Sullivan, Deirdre Falvey, Peter Linehan, Fr. Pat Crean Lynch & Fr. Francis Nolan) for all of the time and excellent 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 every health and happiness in the months and years ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Vera Tierney (B.O.M. Chairperson 2019 – 2023)