

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S END OF YEAR REPORT SEPTEMBER 1ST 2021-JUNE 31ST 2022.

Introduction

This report has been prepared to comply with section 20 of the Education Act, 1998. It covers the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. It was approved at a Board of Management meeting on 31/05/2022

The next report will issue in June 2023.

Total enrolment

68 students were enrolled in the school in 2021/2022.

5 Pupils will graduate from OLGCS School in June 2022. Parents and School Leaver's Team have organised a School Graduation Ceremony which will take place in OLGCS School and the Angler's Rest on 24th June 2024. We wish these wonderful pupils every success in their Adult Training and Day Services.

5 Pupils have been enrolled to attend school in September 2022. We are looking forward to getting to know these new members of our school community.

Spiritual development

Liturgical services resumed this year following Covid Restrictions. Holy Communion Services took place in September 2021 and in April 2022. The Confirmation Ceremony took place in March 2022. Fr Cian

and Fr Alan officiated over the Masses; wonderful, uplifting and joyous occasions in the school year.

The Christmas Pageant was recorded by Gold Class again this year and all the pupils in the school took part virtually. The finished video was uploaded on Facebook and launched at a time when the entire school community could watch it safely at home together. It was a great success and captured very accurately the spirit of Christmas. This play showcased the many talents and abilities of our pupils, and feedback from family and friends of the school was overwhelmingly positive

This year's May Altar was a lovely addition to our School. Classes took turns in bringing seasonal flowers to decorate the altar.

Visit from the Patron Brother John.

The Patron, Brother John and Trustees visited OLG School in May to meet pupils and staff. Brother John wrote to the Principal following the visit observing "it was an uplifting experience, and looking to the future, the work of the school is in safekeeping, both from the Principal and the staff of the school. Our Lady of Good Counsel School is a great testament to the hard work that happens daily in support of the students and their families. It was heartening to see such affirmation of the ethos of the school being carried on regardless of the challenges faced over the last couple of years"

Visit from Secretary General Mc Nally, Chief Inspector Doody and Divisional Inspector Stephens.

It was an honour to receive a visit from Sec. Gen. Mc Nally and her colleagues in the Inspectorate to OLG School on the 20th June 2022. Ms Mc Nally wrote to the Principal after the visit and commented on her wonderful experience meeting children and young people in OLG School.

Junior Cycle

Excellent results were achieved by the students taking the Junior Cycle level 1 and 2. State Certificates were issued to pupils during an awards ceremony which took place in school with pupils and their families. We congratulate these pupils for their significant and proud achievements.

DES Inspection.

An Anti-bullying and Child Protection inspection and information gathering meeting took place in March 2022, no report was generated from this inspection.

Staffing

The school's total teacher allocation from the DES for 2021/2022 is 12.

The school is granted 23.1 full-time Special Needs Assistant positions for 2022/2022.

Sincere thanks to the hard-working, committed, diligent and talented staff who continue to promote excellence in education in OLG School.

Children's Network Disability

On April 19th 2021 the Brothers of Charity Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) supporting the pupils and families of OLG School transferred service to Enable Ireland under the new Progressing Disabilities Service, (DPS).

The Cork Special School Principal's (CSSP) Group met with Minister Rabbitte in April to highlight concerns over the impact of PDS on service delivery to Special Schools. The Minister committed to populate Special Schools with designated Multi Disciplinary Teams, at the earliest opportunity, in response to the failure of the existing system to adequately meet the needs of pupils. The CSSP Group are in ongoing communication with the HSE and the Minister's Office regarding this process.

Information Technology (I.T.)

OLGC School has been upgraded through the DES PDST high speed fibre Broadband since September 2022.

The Aladdin systems continues to monitor the daily attendance of all pupils. Additionally, text alerts are sent to notify parents of certain school events e.g. dates of parent meetings, in-service training, school closures, Covid updates etc.

The school also updates its Facebook page and Website on a regular basis.

Several new android devices and reconditioned iPad were purchased to facilitate on-line learning for pupils at home during lockdown or during Covid restrictions.

Compunet, formally KD Systems, our IT support company donated several reconditioned laptops to the school.

See-saw, Teams and Zoom packages were purchased to support on-line learning and working from home arrangements.

A new inter-active smart whiteboard has been purchased and installed in the Reception Class. This is the 1st Smart-board in the school and we aim to upgrade all our whiteboards in the short term.

Capital Development

The DES have granted a minor works grant to facilitate the roof repair. The project is currently out for tender.

A new pollytunnel and surrounding fence was purchased to develop and expand the Horticulture Programme for the Junior Cycle Syllabus.

A small patio area was laid in September for staff outdoor dining and recreation.

A new School Bus was purchased in March 2022, thanks to the generous fundraising efforts of families and friends of OLGC School through the years. Pupils and staff are enthusiastically planning and

venturing out on social training, sporting, arts and recreational activities associated with the Primary and Junior Cycle Curriculum.

Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities

The BOM expresses its gratitude to the teaching and SNA staff for organising the following activities for pupils during the year

Lámh Choir

Yoga

Junior and Senior Discos

Soccer

Basketball with St Pauls Special School

Food Dudes

Incredible Edibles

School Tours and Educational Outings

Child Protection

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Aisling Power and the Deputy DLP is Nollaig Moynihan. The Board will carry out its annual review of its Child Protection Policy in September 2022. The Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed in April 2022 and presented to the Board. The Statement was forwarded to the Patron for approval.

School Development Planning

Policies that make up the school plan are available on the school's website:

The following have been the main developments in school planning throughout 2021/2022

- The ongoing review of subject development plans in all core areas.
- A new reading programme was introduced to all pupils in OLGC School this year. Following on from great success with a pilot group last year, the Edmark Reading Programme will now be incorporated into the Reading and Primary Language Policy in OLGC School.
- Schiller Maths Programme is being piloted by pupils in White Class, with a view to implementing Schiller into the overall Maths Policy in OLGC School. It will run parallel to Numicon.
- Staff continue to develop Junior Cycle level 1 and level 2 programmes. *The formal review of the following policies/area of activity:*
 - Early Numeracy
 - Early Literacy
 - Admissions and Enrolment Policy Review in line with developments in Progressing Disability Services (PDS.)
 - Code of Behaviour
 - G.D. P. R. Policy
 - Wellness Policy
- A Staff Handbook has been developed by the Principal for all teaching and SNA staff. This will support teachers/SNAs in their daily working lives.
- Two Teachers had their fees met by the Board to refresh their Mapa Tutor Training.
- All staff had their Mapa Training refreshed using online resources created by the in-house Mapa Tutors. A practical Mapa training session took place in May to refresh staff on restrictive practice of holds and such techniques.
- Teachers attended DES and other in-service on-line training in a range of areas, particularly ASD and Wellness training.
- The Managing Behaviours of Concern Policy and Code of Behaviour Policy has been reviewed by the Board and adapted in line with the changing needs and demands of the school.
- The Enrolment Policy has been reviewed by the Board 02/11/2021

Post-holders Reports

Assistant Principal 11 – Claire Catinot

Managerial Role. Supporting principal and deputy principal, daily organisation of classroom staffing. Overseeing new structure of integrating pupils with complex needs with their peer group and supporting these classes. Development and implementation and monitoring of revised pupil support plan for all pupils and in particular those with additional or complex needs. Overview and monitoring of incident reports, devising and fostering strategies in response to incidents.

Leadership Role. Promoting and maintaining and developing a wellness programme for pupils and staff in OLG. Providing suitable safe spaces for pupils and staff to regulate and address wellbeing issues, staff training and pupil prPost Holder's Report for the School Year 2021-2022

Assistant Principal 11 Annette Mulcahy

I'm a Pivotal MAPA tutor – I run MAPA training with Aine Crowley whenever necessary throughout the school. This year we provided an hour's interim training for the whole staff during an in-service training day. I am also available to provide advice whenever necessary where manual handling or restrictive practices are deemed necessary for a child.

Last year we provided training for staff in the theory of MAPA. We will provide a day's certified training for the physical interventions used in MAPA during a Croke Park day in August.

Nollaig and I are Lámh tutors. I have provided training to the whole school every Thursday. So far we have covered 150 lámh signs. Both pupils and staff avail of this. Nollaig and I also train staff and pupils through the morning assemblies where we teach the signs relevant to the Aistear topics of each month.

At the start of last year, I led the junior school in meetings about the relevant programs. We all found these meetings very helpful and plan to do the same next year. We covered topics such as notes, Aistear, HWT and Edmark.

I was the lead Covid officer for the school since the epidemic began. I worked closely with Aisling and the rest of the management team to ensure that we were up to date in best practise, as rules and regulations changed regularly. I was available to give advice and guidance to staff whenever required. I also reviewed the risk assessment, policy document and response plan with Aisling and Nollaig.

I take the lead in running religious ceremonies in the school. This year I organised 2 visits from Fr. Paul. One visit was to classes at Christmas going to class windows, where pupils sang carols and said some prayers with Fr. Paul. The other visit was for Ash Wednesday, where Fr. Paul went from class to class giving ashes to staff and pupils who wanted it. All classes completed a short version of our usual Ash Wednesday ceremony. I ran 2 enrolment ceremonies. The first was for the Confirmation pupils and the second was for the First Holy Communion pupils and included their First Confession. I worked closely with pupils, staff and our Parish priests. These were very special occasions, where I hope all pupils came to know how loved and precious they are. I gave guidance to Confirmation and Communion teachers

about the actual ceremonies, but the hard work for these was completed by the staff themselves. I'm looking forward to working with Fr. Cian on an end of year ceremony. Hopefully next year things will get back to normal fully and we'll have our regular ceremonies and Masses taking place as we would have had in pre-covid year programmes to promote a healthy school and work environment.

Deputy Principal Nollaig Moynihan

I supervise the implementation of the academic programmes in the Junior and Senior end of the school. I lead the Junior Cycle programme for the senior end of the school where we have fortnightly meeting to plan and assess progress and ensure that all evidence is gathered and filed appropriately. Similarly, for the Junior end of the school following the Aistear programme and the curriculum as prescribed by the DES. I gather monthly planning notes, assessments and reflections from each class teacher and support assessment to evaluate progress.

I support Class Teachers in leading learning in the classrooms.

I support the Principal and Management Team with the daily organisation of the School. I ensure that all classes are adequately and appropriately staffed to ensure the school is a safe learning environment for all pupils. I liaise with the secretaries continually throughout the day to plan the booking of substitute teachers and SNAs as required.

I am a Lámh tutor along with Annette Mulcahy. I plan and teach the Lamh programme for the month. I teach sign to both staff and students every morning at morning assembly. We teach the Lamh Focal of the week as provided by Lamh LTd. and we display all signs along with their corresponding Irish words on our Lamh Irish display board weekly. I have provided training to the whole school in Lámh Module 1 course. So far we have covered 150 lámh signs. Both pupils and staff avail of this training.

I attend Board Meetings as recording secretary and Teacher's nominee to the Board.

Conclusion

Ann Lynch, Parents nominee on the board will retire this June as her daughter is transitioning to Adult Services. Ann has been a valuable insightful member of the Board over the past 4 years. Anne advocates that all pupils in OLG School are enabled to aim towards their greatest potential in a safe educational environment, while remaining mindful of opportunities for learning and growth posed in the day to day management of the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the voluntary members of the Board of Management of Our Lady of Good Counsel

Special School for their ongoing, unwavering and dedicated commitment to the effective management of the school during the year.

The Staff of Our Lady of Good Counsel School is it's greatest resource. The end of year report would be a sparse read but for the enthusiasm, productivity, professionalism, creativity, excellent skills in communication, listening, collaboration, adaptability empathy and patience of each and every single member of OLG C School Staff.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and restful summer holiday!

Beannachtaí don Samhradh!

