



Carrigeen NS

www.carrigeenns.com

'Promoting full personal, moral and social development in caring Christian communities of learning and teaching.'



Carrigeen NS Board of Management – Annual Report 2025

Purpose

This Annual Report has been prepared in compliance with Section 20 of the *Education Act, 1998*, covering the period from **1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025**. It was approved at a Board of Management meeting on **16th July 2025**.

The purpose of this report is to keep our parents and school community informed about the operation and development of our school over the past year. It complements the regular communication already provided through newsletters, website, social media pages, our Information Booklet for new families, and ongoing updates throughout the year.

Board of Management (December 2023 – 2027)

- **Chairperson:** Eamon Delahunty
- **Treasurer:** Eileen Gaynor
- **Secretary:** Sinéad Murphy (Principal)
- **Teacher Nominee:** Ian Duggan
- **Parent Nominees:** Noel Delahunty & Sharon Dunne
- **Patron's Nominee:** Fr. Martin Tobin
- **Community Representative:** Margaret Phelan

We are deeply grateful to each member of the Board for their voluntary service and commitment to the governance of our school.

Enrolment

The school enrolment for the 2024/2025 academic year was **126 students**.

Highlights and Achievements

Teaching & Learning

We are proud of the breadth and richness of the learning experiences provided:

- Maths Week, Science Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge
- School assemblies celebrating student achievement
- Swimming lessons for 3rd–6th class
- Lego Spike, polytunnel planting and harvesting projects
- Implementation of the new Primary Maths Curriculum and new science & STEAM resources



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Attendance Focus

This year, we placed extra attention on promoting good attendance through a variety of incentives, rewards, and consistent encouragement. As a result, we achieved an overall attendance rate of 94%, with all months exceeding 90%, and four months surpassing 95% attendance. We are very pleased with this progress and remain committed to supporting regular attendance as a key factor in student success.

Extracurricular Activities

We continued to offer our students a wide range of activities to develop their talents and interests:

- Active Schools Programme & Amber Flag (renewed)
- Activity Bundle: Rhythm & Shakes, Yoga, Irish Dancing, Ukulele, Gymnastics
- Chess tournament, Credit Union Quiz, Concern Debates
- Christmas Concert with Pat Grant, Christmas Carol Service & Santa visit
- Christmas baking & crafts, Hoof Top hot chocolate van
- World Book Day, Graduation Ceremony, Easter & Summer Camps
- Farm visits, local history and geography walks
- School 5k Walk, Green Schools Programme, Lego Spike workshops

Sports

Our students represented Carrigeen NS with distinction:

- **Roinn A Hurling Champions** and Country Cup finalists
- GAA hurling and camogie, GPO coaching by Mooncoin GAA
- Lunchtime Leagues: Basketball, Gaelic football, hurling
- Spar 5-a-side and soccer coaching

We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship shown by all our pupils. We are also deeply grateful to our coaches for their dedication, encouragement, and invaluable contribution to fostering a love of sport in our school.

School Ethos and Catholic Life

Faith and spiritual development are central to our school:

- Sacraments: First Confession, First Communion, Confirmation
- Start-of-Year Mass, weekly Lenten Mass, Graduation Mass & 6th Class retreat

We congratulate our pupils on the reverence and dedication shown in preparing for and celebrating these milestones, and we thank Ms. Forristal for her outstanding leadership of the school choir, which enriches these celebrations so beautifully.



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Pupil Leadership and Student Voice

- Active Student Council, Green Schools & Active Schools Committees
- Charity and social awareness: Mooncoin St. Vincent de Paul, Shoebox Appeal, Mooncoin Residential Care Home
- Bring & Buy Sale, Christmas Shoebox Appeal
- Memorable 6th Class trips and school tours

We commend our students for the sense of responsibility and kindness they demonstrate.

School Services

- School Book Provision Scheme
- Hot Meals Scheme
- Before & After School Club

School Development and Planning

We continue to prioritise good governance, planning and development:

- Review and ratification of key policies:
 - Dignity at Work (Working Together Procedures 2024)
 - Updated Bi Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy
 - Admissions Policy

Board Meetings

Board meetings were held on the following dates:

3 October 2024, 17 December 2024, 11 February 2025, 22 April 2025, 19 May 2025, 16 July 2025.

We thank each member of the Board for their diligent work in ensuring the school is effectively managed.

School Leadership and Staff

The Board acknowledges and sincerely thanks the entire staff of Carrigeen NS — teachers, SNAs, ancillary and support staff — for their outstanding commitment, professionalism and care.

The staff continuously strive to create a safe, inclusive and inspiring environment where every child can thrive. Their creativity, teamwork and dedication to the wellbeing and education of all pupils is deeply appreciated by the Board and the wider school community.



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Staffing 2025/2026

Teacher Appointments & Staffing

For the 2025–2026 school year, classes will be grouped as follows:

- Ms. Sinéad Murphy takes up an administrative principal role
- Junior & Senior Infants: Ms. T. Power
- 1st & 2nd Class: Ms. L. Walsh
- 3rd & 4th Class: Ms. N. Whelan (maternity leave) - Recruitment ongoing
- 5th Class: Ms. L. Phelan
- 6th Class: Mr. I. Duggan
- Multiclass 1: Ms. P. Phelan
- Multiclass 2: Ms. G. Dowling
- Special Education Teachers: Ms. Forristal & Ms. Hanlon

The school was granted **5.66 Special Needs Assistant positions** for the 2025/26 school year, whose support for students with additional needs is invaluable.

Leadership and Management Team

Ms. Dowling held the position of Deputy Principal during the 2024–2025 school year, and Ms. Forristal and Ms. P. Phelan held the positions of Assistant Principal II. They oversaw day-to-day responsibilities and duties in the running of the school and supported the principal in leading and managing the school.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to the leadership and management team for their commitment and dedication to the roles held and for all their invaluable work throughout the school year.

Wider School Team

We also wish to express our deep appreciation for the wider school team. This year marked the retirement of our caretaker, Mr. Philly Walsh, after almost 40 years of outstanding service to Carrigeen NS. Philly's dedication, skill and good humour were notable and he leaves behind a lasting legacy. We wish him every happiness and good health in his retirement.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new caretaker, Mr. David Ennis, who has already settled into the role and is proving to be a fantastic addition to our team.

A special mention of thanks to our kitchen operator, Kitty, for her consistent care and commitment in ensuring the Hot Meals Scheme runs smoothly each day, and to our secretary, Helen, whose efficiency, kindness, and support are truly at the heart of the smooth running of our school. And to our cleaner, Miriam, whose hard work and attention to detail ensure our school is always clean, safe and welcoming for all. And to our bus escorts for the care, patience, and kindness they show to the children each morning and afternoon on their journeys to and from school.



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Carrigeen NS is fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented staff, and the Board acknowledges the tremendous work of all teachers, SNAs, ancillary staff, and volunteers for the exceptional care and education they provide to our pupils every day.

Parents and Community

We are fortunate to have a highly engaged and supportive parent body, and an active Parents' Association committee. Their contributions — both in time and in fundraising — enhance the learning opportunities for all pupils.

We also acknowledge and thank the wider Carrigeen and Mooncoin community, local clubs and organisations for their continued partnership and generosity.

Financial Oversight

The Board is satisfied that the finances of the school are managed prudently and in line with Department of Education requirements. We thank our Treasurer Eileen and the school accountant for their diligent work, and the parents for their ongoing support of school initiatives and fundraising efforts.

Child Protection & Welfare

The Board confirms that all policies in relation to child protection were fully complied with and annual reports were made to Tusla. A Child Protection Oversight Report and Anti-Bullying Report were presented at each Board meeting.

Behaviour & School Culture

We commend our pupils on their excellent behaviour and positive attitudes throughout the year. Visitors frequently remark on the respectful and friendly atmosphere in the school, which reflects the efforts of staff, parents and pupils alike.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Management, I wish to express our deep gratitude to:

- Our pupils, who continue to inspire us with their enthusiasm, kindness and achievements
- Our staff, for their tireless dedication and care for every child
- Our parents, for their trust, support and partnership
- Our community, for their generosity and ongoing involvement

We look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead to ensure that Carrigeen NS remains a welcoming, vibrant and thriving school for all.