



Gairmscoil na Mainistreach

Abbey Vocational School Donegal Town Co Donegal F94 A409

Principal: Mr Alan Thompson

Tel: 074 9721105

Email: abbeyvs@donegaletb.ie

Agreed Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Abbey Vocational School Board of Management 4th June 2025

Attendance	Donegal ETB Nominees Mr Geoff Browne, Mr Tom Conaghan Ms Anne Duke Ms Aisling Hayes Teacher Nominees Parent Nominees Dr Thomas Smyth Apologies: Ms Lauren Kelly Mr Stuart Mc Fadden Ms Mags Moran In attendance: Mr Michael Leyden, Deputy Principal Mr Alan Thompson, Secretary to the board;
Welcome	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Minutes	The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 9th April 2025 were presented to the board. The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Mr Tom Conaghan and having been seconded by Ms Aisling Hayes.
Principal's Report	The principal also advised of the following recent and upcoming developments in the school: Gaisce Mr Mc Fadden and Ms O' Mahony took 25 students on an overnight trip to the Breesy centre in cashelard and hike on 30th April as part of their Bronze and Silver Gaisce Awards. SciFest Our school had a number of students participate in the annual SciFest competition which took place in ATU Donegal on 8th May. Our school entered

www.avsdonegal.com

Excellence in Education | Care | Equality | Community | Respect

4 projects by 11 students. A display award went to one project, a Merit award to another while the Eirgrid Cleaner Climate award went to a third project. The principal thanked Ms Page for her support of the students.

1st Year Sports Day

Our 1st years had a sports day on Thursday 8th May. The principal thanked Mr Carty for organising the events for the students.

6th Yr Bonding Day

Our 6th Years had their annual bonding day, a day used to look after their wellbeing before refocusing on exams preparations. The event took place in Rossnowlagh in glorious weather on 13th May. The students really appreciated the day. Thanks to Mr O' Donnell and Ms O' Mahony for organising the event.

LCA Trip

On the same day as the 6th Year trip, Ms Mc Partlan organised a Go Karting trip for the LCA students as a thank you for all of their cooperation over the year.

1st Year Tour to Lough Key Forest Park

Mr Plunkett, Year Head, organised a tour for all 1st Years on May 12th. Over 120 students travelled on the day and all students reported having an enjoyable day. The principal thanked Mr Plunkett and the class tutors for their support.

Prize-Giving

Our school's annual Prize Giving took place on 15th May. The guest speaker was former mayor, Mr Pauric Kennedy. The event went very well and was an important celebration of our students' contribution to school life. The principal thanked Ms Mulhern for organising the event.

Athletics

Ms Gallagher supported a number of our students in attending the Ulster Athletics Championships in Belfast over multiple days. A number of our students qualified for the national finals in June. The principal thanked Ms Gallagher.

Balmoral

Ms Doherty and Ms Feeney took the Agricultural Science students on a trip to Balmoral on 15th May. This ties in with the specification the students follow.

U14 Girls GAA Ulster Final

Our U14 girls contested the Ulster final on 15th May in Garvaghy. Unfortunately, they came up just short in the closely fought battle but it was still a great achievement to get this far. The principal thanked Ms Donna Martin for her work with the girls.

Girls Active Trip

Ms Chapman organised a reward trip to Rossnowlagh on 16th May for all those female students who had attended the Girls Active programme throughout the year. The principal thanked Ms Chapman and Ms Brady for getting involved in the programme.

TY Showcase

	Our TY students finished their year on 20th May with the annual TY Showcase, where they give an overview of their year to the present 3rd years as a taster of what is to come. This is delivered through song, dance, presentation and a little comedy. The principal thanked outgoing TY Coordinator, Mr Clarke, incoming TY coordinator Ms Kelly, Ms Carr and Ms Mohan for organising the event. 6th year Graduation Service Our annual 6th Year Graduation service took place on 22nd May. As always, it was a lovely occasion, a poignant event marking both an end and a new beginning. The event was very much student led but the principal also thanked Mr O' Donnell, Ms Carr and Ms Mulhern for their support for the students. He also thanked the local clergy for their attendance at the event. ICAN Graduation Service The following day, 23rd May, three of our students in the ICAN suite had an additional graduation ceremony attended by the students and their families.
Teaching & Learning	SSE Update Report Subject Departments engaged in a structured review of each department's implementation of the school's SSE plan and SIP. Attendance Awards Our school held its annual Attendance Awards and draw to reward students with over 95% attendance. A senior and student won digital tablets as part of the awards while others picked up vouchers. House Exams House exams have been completed by 1st, 2nd & 5th Years. The principal thanked Mr Leyden and Ms Feeney for their support. SEC Examinations Our 6th Year students have completed the oral and practical examinations as part of this year's Leaving Certificate. All project works and additional components have also been completed. The principal wished all of the school's students well as they embark on the State Examinations today, 4th June. Academic calendar
School Development Planning	Posts of Responsibility Annual Reviews The principal advised that he had conducted the annual reviews of the roles and responsibilities held by post holders. This involved each post holder carrying out a self-generated review of their year's work followed by a formal review meeting with the principal. The principal thanked all of the school's leaders for their work throughout the year. Identification of Needs and Priorities of the School The principal advised that the school has carried out a review of the needs and priorities of the school. He noted that this is a requirement every two years and that the last review had taken place in May 2023. He noted that the whole teaching staff met on 7th May to consider the needs and priorities and that a subsequent meeting involving a small working group finalised the list of needs and priorities. These were also aligned to the domains of leadership as set out by the department of education.

	The list was approved on a proposal of Ms Aisling Hayes and having been seconded by Dr Thomas Smyth. Summer School Programme Our school is running the 2025 Summer Programme again this year. Ms O'Donnell has led out on this programme very successfully over the past two years. The principal thanked her for her continued work in this area. Digital Strategy Our school is seeking to introduce a student 1:1 Device scheme so that students have access to their own individual laptop / chromebook in future. Staff have been surveyed and there is overwhelming support for the initiative. A consultation with parents took place on 3rd June in which the principal set out the rationale for the proposed move to student devices. Leadership Training The principal and deputy principals will attend a leadership residential course organised by ETBI in Galway on 18th & 19th June.
Policies	The following policies was presented for ratification on this occasion: Abbey Vocational School Anti-bullying Checklist This checklist was reviewed by the board and approved on a proposal of Mr Geoff Browne and having been seconded by Mr Tom Conaghan. Abbey Vocational School Anti-bullying Policy This policy was approved on a proposal of Mr Tom Conaghan and having been seconded by Ms Aisling Hayes. Abbey Vocational School Student Friendly Anti-bullying Policy This policy was approved on a proposal of Dr Thomas Smyth and having been seconded by Mr Tom Conaghan. Abbey Vocational School Critical Incident Policy This policy was approved on a proposal of Ms Aisling Hayes and having been seconded by Mr Tom Conaghan. Abbey Vocational School Mobile Phone Policy Policy This policy was approved on a proposal of Ms Anne Duke and having been seconded by Ms Aisling Hayes. Abbey Vocational School Code of Behaviour This policy was approved on a proposal of Dr Thomas Smyth and having been seconded by Ms Anne Duke. Abbey Vocational School Suspension Policy This policy was approved on a proposal of Ms Aisling Hayes and having been seconded by Mr Geoff Browne Abbey Vocational School Policy on Students completing additional Subjects This policy was approved as amended on a proposal of Ms Aisling Hayes and having been seconded by Mr Tom Conaghan. Abbey Vocational School Exclusion Policy

	This policy was approved on a proposal of Dr Thomas Smyth and having been seconded by Ms Anne Duke.
Parents' Association	Ms Anne Duke gave a report of the work of the Parents' Association. The Parents' Association held an Easter Raffle at Easter and raised approximately €4,000 to be used for the school. The Parents' Association has had one meeting since the last board meeting. Some members of the Parents' Association helped out at the 6th Year Graduation Ceremony. The principal expressed his gratitude for the support. The Chairperson thanked Ms Duke for all her support for the school over the last academic year.