



Loreto Annual Report 2023

We Value
Freedom
Truth
Sincerity
Justice
Joy



*Do good and do
it well*

Mary Ward





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Welcome to the Annual Report 2023

I welcome all members of the extended Loreto family to this year's Annual Report.

This annual report presents an overview of the great work that continues to be done in the 32 schools - 18 post-primary, 5 community and 9 primary - that make up the Loreto Network on the island of Ireland. Thankfully, the threats posed by the pandemic have eased considerably in the past twelve months and, as a consequence, school life has pretty well returned to where we were prior to March 2020. This is reflected in the pages that follow as schools outline their highlights over the past year. How refreshing and uplifting they are! We also admire the Trojan work that continues in Loreto, Rumbek in the most difficult of social, political and economic conditions.

I am reluctant to use the phrase that we have "returned to normal". There is no normal when a tragic and needless war is being waged on the continent that we share with our fellow European citizens. Nor can it be business as normal when the very existence of our planet is being challenged by the effects of climate

change. Loreto schools have done a great deal in highlighting and responding to these issues over the last year.

Importantly, however, this must continue with renewed determination in the time ahead as both threats remain real and worrying.

I know, however, that this report can never tell the full story of life in Loreto schools. Whilst most of our students and staff can come to school each day and engage fully, that is not the case for all. Instead, school and work life can be made very difficult by many serious challenges – physical or mental illness, family break-ups, learning difficulties, financial worries, relationship issues and exclusion, to name but some. I wish to use this welcome to the Annual Report 2023 to say a special word of thanks to all in the Loreto schools who go to great lengths to provide support, guidance and encouragement to those in our midst who need it most. Their work will never make it on to the pages of an annual report but, please be assured, that it is both noted and very deeply appreciated.

Many members of the Loreto family are aware by now of the need to plan for the best possible model of trusteeship into the future. The nature of that model has yet to be determined. Please be assured that the Loreto Education Trust Board will do all



that it can to keep schools in the network fully informed of developments and meaningfully involved before any final decisions are made.

It is a pleasure to pay tribute to the dedicated and highly competent staff who work in the Loreto Education Centre – Caroline, Melissa, Eliza, Sr. Kathleen and Eddie – and also to Sr. Ann who stood down as Director of the Centre in 2022. They continue to deliver a very high standard of support to the entire Loreto network. Indeed, the nature of this support has expanded greatly in recent times in response to the complexities that now exist in the world of education.

I know that the Directors of the Loreto Education Trust Board will join me in extending sincere gratitude to the leadership teams, staff and students who work so diligently and collaboratively in our schools and to those who serve in a voluntary capacity on Boards of Management/Governors and as members of parents' associations. The Trust Board will endeavour to offer all possible support to Loreto schools in their quest to follow the directions set in the Mary Ward Schools Compass to be rooted, responsive and relevant organisations.

Billy O'Shea
Chairperson
Loreto Education Trust Board



About Us

Loreto schools seek to provide an education that affirms the innate dignity of every human being created in God's image, and fosters the full and harmonious development of each student, encompassing the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects in an environment of justice, freedom, sincerity, truth and joy.

Both Mary Ward and Teresa Ball responded to the needs of their time by establishing schools and using the work of education to spread the message of the Gospel. These schools flourished and by the middle of the 20th Century, there were almost thirty schools in Ireland which drew their defining ethos from the spirit of the Loreto Congregation.

Over time lay colleagues shared in the delivery of education, the leadership and management of the schools. The final link in that chain was sharing the Trusteeship of our schools. In 2003 the Congregational Leader and her council established the Loreto Education Trust with responsibility for this Trusteeship.

Both Sisters and lay persons are appointed as Directors of the Trust. Loreto Education Trust serves the schools through the Loreto Education Centre.

Mission Statement of the Trust:

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Holding in trust the gift of Mary Ward's distinctive vision, we undertake trusteeship of the Loreto enterprise of education now and into the future. Working out of IBVM (Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) core values and facilitating their contemporary expression within Loreto Schools, we exercise the function of trusteeship through:

- ❖ On-going dialogue with the wider Loreto Community
- ❖ Two-way communication with the schools
- ❖ Support of the Loreto Network of Schools
- ❖ Leadership development



The Trust Board

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Loreto Education Trust took place on the 14th March 2022 through the Zoom platform, the eighteenth AGM since the Trust was incorporated in 2003. The Annual Report was sent to the Members and Directors before the meeting and later sent to all our educational stakeholders as well as Loreto communities within the Province.

Sr Helen O'Riordan, on behalf of the Members, responded to the Report and her response can be found in the Appendices.

The Future of the Trust

The following correspondence was issued, by Sr. Barbara Murphy IBVM, Province Leader and Billy O'Shea, Chairperson of the Trust, on 1st March 2023, to the Loreto Community and Network together with all Staff and Officers of the Loreto Education Centre.

We write to provide you with an update regarding the ongoing consideration of the future trusteeship of Loreto schools.

You are aware that Members of the Loreto Education Trust (LET) invited school representatives to a meeting in Dublin on 6th December 2021. At the meeting

information relevant to the future governance of Loreto schools was outlined. Details were given of general discussions over a period of time regarding Loreto schools possibly joining the Le Chéile Trust.

Over the last fourteen months the Members of LET have engaged with Directors on seven occasions – three meetings with full Board of Directors and four meetings at Joint Working Group level (three Directors and three Members). The Members also met with a representative group of the Chairpersons of Boards of Management three times, and with a representative group of Principals on two occasions. Since December 2021 there have been no formal conversations, meetings or negotiations with Le Chéile.

In response to requests for further engagement and information, and at the invitation of schools, the Members are currently visiting Boards of Management. Since September thirteen School Boards have warmly welcomed the sisters and very worthwhile conversations have taken place, with mutual sharing and listening. The main conversation points have centred around Province leadership's rationale for the decision to 'explore and negotiate joining Le Chéile Trust'. Some Boards also shared on local issues that



are impacting their school. Visits to school Boards will continue over the next few weeks with the aim of concluding at Easter time.

After Easter there will be a full assessment of all aspects of current circumstances relevant to the future governance of Loreto schools. Concerns raised and suggestions made at all meetings will feed into this assessment and the ongoing discernment process. A professional financial appraisal will be conducted in the coming weeks. It is our intention to engage the services of PwC to assist us in these tasks.

The Province Leadership Team and the Trust Board will work closely together as the process continues. We fully appreciate the importance of this matter to all of us in the Loreto family, and we will keep you informed of developments.

Please feel free to share the contents of this letter with the members of your school community as you see fit.

In the meantime, the great work being done by all in our Loreto schools will continue as normal.

Appointments

Five Directors were reappointed to the Board in 2022.

- Conor Bowman
- Jenny Edwards
- Sheila McManamly
- Sr Phil Murphy
- Bernadette Ryan

Sr Elizabeth Cotter, Ruth Ferris and Billy O'Shea were appointed to the Board in January 2023 following the retirement of Sr Phil Murphy, Sr Maria Hyland and Dermot McCarthy. Billy O'Shea was subsequently appointed as Chairperson of the Board. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Sr Phil, Sr Maria and Dermot for their most generous service to the Trust Board and all that they have given to Loreto Education during their terms as Directors of the Loreto Education Trust.

Trust Board Meetings

The Trust Board met on four occasions since the last Annual General meeting on the 14th March 2022.

Issues discussed and considered by the Trust Board Directors during the past year include:

- ❖ Challenges experienced by the schools including the continuing impact of Covid19



- ❖ Appointments to Boards of Managements and Boards of Governors
- ❖ Admission Policies and approval of amendments to them
- ❖ Building Projects
- ❖ Financial oversight of all our schools
- ❖ Compliance with the Charities Governance Code
- ❖ Approval of relevant Policies for the Loreto Education Centre

We invite all members of the IBVM and CJ and Mary Ward Family to celebrate this wonderful news and to join us in praying for Sister Carmel.



Announcements

New IBVM Institute Leader announced by the General Congregation

Province Leader

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary elected a new Institute Leader. Following a time of prayerful discernment and conversation, delegates to the IBVM General Congregation have elected Sister Carmel Swords as the new Institute Leader.

We are also delighted to congratulate Sr Barbara Murphy who was appointed as Province Leader in January 2023.

Barbara has a wealth of experience in Loreto education both as a teacher and as a Principal.

Sister Carmel was the Province Leader in Ireland. She served previously as Principal and Deputy Principal for Loreto schools, and is a Mary Ward scholar, leading retreats, pilgrimages, and the summer school program for the Mary Ward Family.

She will lead the Institute for the next eight years and will forge the way through the process of Becoming One with the Congregation of Jesus.





She also served on the IBVM General Leadership Team in Rome from 2006-2014.

We wish Barbara every blessing in this role of leadership.



Congratulations to Sr. Patricia Murray the Executive Secretary of the UISG, who was appointed as a consultant to the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

On Saturday, February 18th, Pope Francis announced the nominations of the members and consultants to the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

Sr. Patricia says: "It is truly an honour to be nominated as a consultant to the new Dicastery for Culture and Education. Schools, universities and other educational settings are privileged places at the cutting edge of the dialogue between faith and culture."

The Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools (APTCS)

The Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools (APTCS) is established for the advancement of education in accordance with the Catholic Ethos, through promoting best operational practice in the exercise of Trusteeship and Patronage of schools.

Under the Education Act (1998) the Patron determines the characteristic spirit of the school. APTCS provides support to Patrons and Trustees in schools concerning governance and compliance, policies, property, Trustees' obligations, Patrons' duties, ethos and financial matters.

APTCS Vision

As Patrons and Trustees we are diverse in terms of individual histories and founding intentions but we are united in the belief that the education of the whole person must include deep questions about the purpose and meaning of life and that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus guide the answers we offer. We support freedom of educational choice where the state provides funding for education while parents can choose those faith schools that reflect their wishes and hopes for their children.

APTCS Website

The Members of the APTCS Trust Board are representative of all the Trusts, the Catholic Education Partnership and the Secretariat of Secondary Schools. Responsibility for funding the association rests with the Patrons /Trustees. The new



company in consultation with its members has revised its Constitution and Memorandum of Association and is now a registered charity.

The Chairperson and Board of APTCS, together with the CEO, Dr Eilis Humphreys, prioritise the trusteeship of Catholic education and its place in Irish society. APTCS has enabled the Trustees and Patrons of Catholic schools to speak with a single voice in dialogue with all the relevant stakeholders and also to represent Catholic education more robustly in the public arena.

Over the last year, Dr Eilis Humphreys has advanced significantly the objectives and vision of APTCS through her excellent collaborative work with all the stakeholders and her extensive knowledge and understanding of the educational landscape at trustee and patron level.

Eilis is also the Chairperson of the Board of Management, Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey and like all our Chairpersons makes an invaluable contribution to Loreto education.

Loreto Education Centre staff work closely with APTCS and welcome the opportunity to be part of the wider Catholic education community.

As a member of the APTCS Trust Board I have seen first-hand the progress the company is making in fulfilling its strategic

objectives. My involvement in the organisation includes membership of the Trust Co-ordination committee, an APTCS representative, with Eilis, on the Association of Joint Patrons of Community & Comprehensive schools, and a member of the Education Subcommittee which provides in service/ CPD to Chairpersons, Board of Management, Principals and Deputies.

Sr Kathleen is a member of the APTCS Ethos Subcommittee and Eddie Fynes is a member of the Property Subcommittee.

Sheila McManamly (Loreto Education Trust Director) is APTCS Company Secretary and also a member of the Education Subcommittee, among other roles.

At the subcommittees meetings, there is a genuine sense of being part of a Catholic community and for the first time in a formal setting, all the Trust representatives on the various subcommittees and working groups, generously share their knowledge, expertise and experience.

APTCS subcommittees include the Trusts' Coordination Committee, Strategic Working Group, Ethos Subcommittee and Property Subcommittee.

APTCS has made responses / submissions to Department of Education (DE) consultations, e.g. National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)



Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Education Bill Admission of Students with Special Needs 2022, Dublin City Council Development Plan.

Research is carried out on the long term needs re educational provision and Catholic second level schools ie Genesis

Research Report- See summary by Paul Meany, APTCS Chairperson which appears later in this report.

We, in the Loreto Education Centre, look forward to continuing to support, work with and benefit from the important work of APTCS in the year ahead.

Caroline Clarke

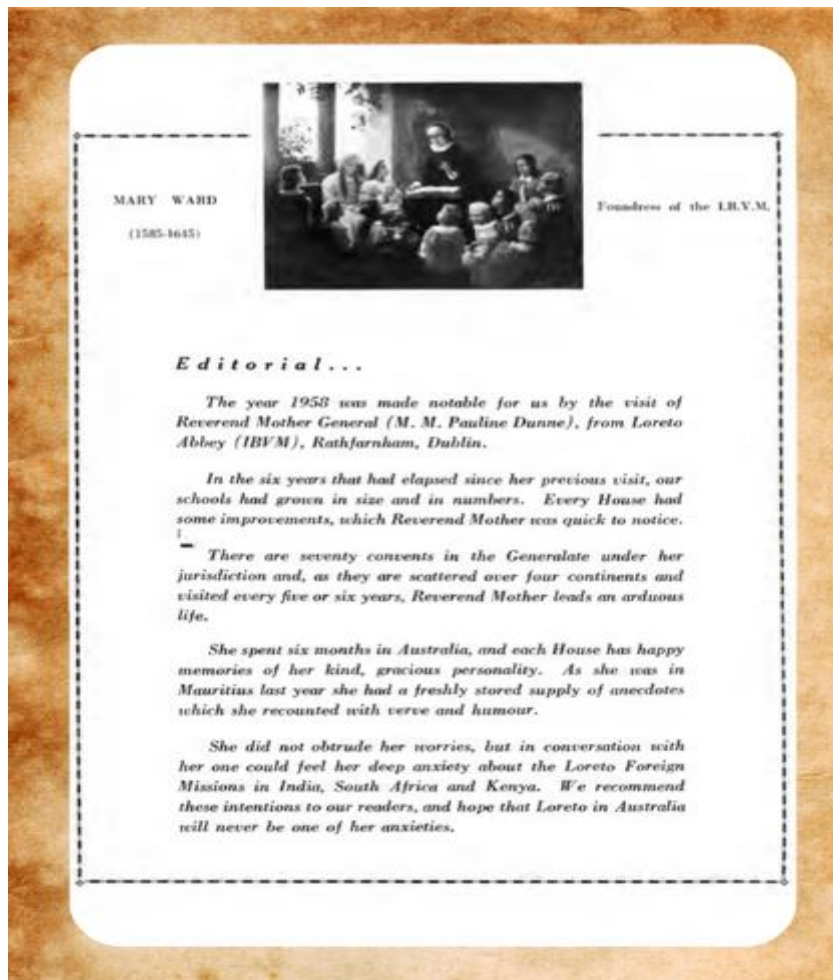
Director of Education and Leadership



**All Ireland Champions 2023
St Michael's Loreto Navan**



Director of Education and Leadership Report



The Australian Loreto Annual in 1958 offers us an interesting insight into the Loreto education mission at that moment in time. Much excitement and anticipation was evident as Mother General Pauline Dunne (Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham) was due to visit Loreto schools in Australia. What struck me in perusing the extensive annual was how little Loreto education has changed in those 65 years! The 1958 Annual is context and time specific giving us a snapshot of what it was like to be a Loreto student at that time, but also offering a glimpse into the societal culture of the day. This is one of the reasons why our Annual Reports and School Yearbooks are so important for future generations, who may wish to look back at what Loreto schools were like in the first quarter of this century. These annual publications are like time machines, in that they take us back to a lived reality that is, on the one hand so familiar to us, and on the other hand speaks of a different country, culture and continent. However, what is familiar sixty five years later is the language on ethos, the same expression of the Loreto charism that we reference today, the same commitment to sport, music, debating, tours, community, student leadership, academic excellence and students leaning into the world with an ethic of social justice.



So what is happening in our schools in 2023? We started back to school in September with a tentative hope that the upcoming academic year would truly be a turning, a return to the vibrancy of school life and some solid ground on which we could provide the holistic, educational experience so defining of the Loreto network of schools. Almost seven months later, I am pleased to say that this hope has been fully realised and our school communities are flourishing with teaching, learning, extra and co-curricular activities, community events and in Mary Ward's words, 'right relationships'!

This short report will offer only a flavour of the activities our schools have participated in, the many achievements, endeavours and successes over the last year. It will also, I hope, give an insight into my role with the schools and the wider educational community.

As the schools began to fully interface with the outside world, it was our school staff who made everything possible again, ably encouraged and empowered by our senior leaders. I want to use the opportunity of this Annual Report to acknowledge and thank the staff in the schools who so generously and selflessly volunteer their time to coach, manage, organise, plan, mentor and lead so many of the wonderful opportunities students have, to participate in activities outside of the classroom. The level of volunteerism and dedication of our school staff is nothing short of remarkable and was

highlighted even more acutely upon the return of these activities, post covid.

Also, in conversation and meetings with our guidance counsellors, year heads, tutors, chaplains, pastoral teams and additional learning needs teams, Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) and Home School Liaison Coordinators (HSLC), it is inspiring to hear of the care and support offered to our students every day.

I want to acknowledge and thank them all for the way in which they scaffold the children and young people with kindness, compassion and support. Despite the fact that schools are under resourced in these vital areas of pastoral care, additional learning needs and counselling, our staff and leadership teams make up some of the shortfall with their care and dedication.

What is very clear from our conversations about schools and students is that there is an emergence of new challenges and issues, post covid, that are only beginning to manifest into tangible problematic aspects of young people's lives. There is an urgent need for our political leaders to turn their attention to these emerging issues before schools are overwhelmed and we see a generation of children and





young people irreversibly impacted by the tsunami of post pandemic problems, challenges and issues. Mental health, resilience and student well-being are emerging as key issues with students. Stress, work life balance and navigating the complexity of school life are priority concerns for teachers and leaders.

On a positive note, despite the many societal, social, financial and psychological challenges that have come to the fore this year, our schools never fail to bring joy, celebration and pride.

The participation and success in the sports and extracurricular competitions this year has been quite extraordinary, with Loreto schools reaching and winning finals at County and National levels in all codes and events.



Gone are the days where schools only provide a limited range of activities; the range of sports students have participated in this academic year is testament to that. It has been a busy year of sport across all our schools with activities including rugby, GAA, hockey, badminton, athletics,

basketball, camogie, soccer, yoga, show jumping, sailing, rock climbing and orienteering.



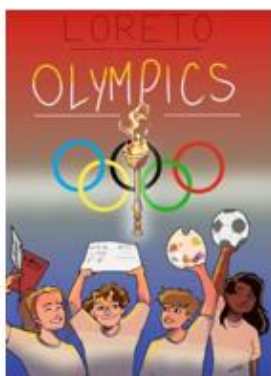
November was a particularly busy month with a number of events taking place across the Loreto Schools Network.

The inaugural Loreto Olympics, hosted by Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey, saw teams of 6 from Letterkenny, Kilkenny, Balbriggan, Foxrock, Stephen's Green, Bray, Beaufort and Mullingar, participate in a range of fun challenges and tasks across the day. Congratulations to Loreto, Dalkey who won the competition and thank you to Jane Coyne, Dalkey Sports Coordinator, and the talented TYs for coordinating the entire event.



One of the highlights of the sporting year was the Loreto Swim Gala which took place in National Aquatic Centre in Dublin with fourteen schools participating. We presented the Rafaella Costin Memorial Shield in memory of Rafaella, a much loved, Loreto Balbriggan student who was a talented swimmer. The shield was awarded to Molly Nulty of Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny.

Congratulations to Molly and to the team from Letterkenny who also won the overall event, bringing home the 1st place cup, a cup they last won in 2006. Congratulations also to Loreto Secondary School, Wexford who won the Spirit award.



The inter Loreto LGFA tournament also took place in November with the event seeing Loreto High School Beaufort with

their first ever LGFA team representing the school.

Loreto crowned All-Ireland 7's champions



With an early start on Wednesday in Co. Meath, the best left the sports complex at Loreto Secondary School in Fermoy at dawn. Stopping for breakfast in Junction 14, the girls arrived bright and early to be prepared for the games ahead.

Loreto faced Mullin College of Galway in the semi-final and proved too strong for them with scores from Shv Hallinan, Ally McMorris, Ruby Hickey, Faye Shahan, Nikita Pate and Chloe Higgins. Chloe Higgins and Sophia Kelly battled hard in defence. This meant the Loreto team were on course for the All-Ireland final.

The final against St Marks was an extremely close game where it was a draw on 6 occasions. Goals from Ally McMorris, Ruby Hickey and points from Faye Shahan kept them in touch.

Nikita Pate made a superb save and cleared to Shanna O'Donnell who covered everything to salvage ahead by two points after a ruck of a few by Faye Shahan hit the back of the net.

The referee awarded a free in the dying seconds to St Marks of Co. Down but Ella May Kelly and Rebecca Freshan stood solid to defend.

Playing on and after further 2 minutes, the ball was cleared to the forward line where Ally was fouled. She duly pointed to put a goal between the sides. It felt like the final whistle was never going to come.

There were tears, hugs and shouting, families were writing their flags and Ms Gould was nearly on the floor.

Thank you to our wonderful GAA Parents' Leader, students who supported the supporters club and helped out on the day. Thank you to the parents, guardians, grandparents and siblings who made the long journey to Dungannon.

A special thank you to our sponsors McMorris's Pharmacy, Fermoy for sponsoring our All-Ireland 7's champions!

We're back on the training field with lots more to contend for but now, we're delighted to be All-Ireland 7's champions! Loreto also!

All-Ireland 7's champions with sponsor Mike from McMorris's Pharmacy, Fermoy. Pictured is team coach Michelle Gould, Loreto Fermoy players and Caroline McMorris.

The year has also seen blitzes take place in a number of sports including Gaelic football, basketball, hockey and camogie. The All Ireland Loreto Regatta took place in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin in October.

We would like to congratulate all those students who have taken part and made these events such a success.





Clonmel and Navan are currently Munster and Leinster Champions respectively and will meet each other in the All Ireland Semi Final! Whilst Cavan u16 are Ulster Champions again.

Congratulations to Loreto Junior School St Stephens Green who reached the final of Cumann na mBunscoil and while beaten, had a fantastic day in Croke Park.

Huge congratulations also to Loreto Omagh, Loreto Cavan, Loreto Kilkenny, Loreto Fermoy, Loreto Letterkenny, Loreto Wexford and Loreto Navan who won All Ireland Championships Cups in the last year. Loreto Abu!



Our sincere thanks to Shauna Walsh (Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan) who was appointed to the role of Loreto Network Sports Co-ordinator in September 2022 and who has done a fantastic job in running all the Loreto Sports events. Her efficiency, organisational skills and professionalism coupled with her passion for sport ensured that she carried out her role to the highest standard. I would like to acknowledge and

thank her and all our sports coaches and PE teachers for the excellent organisation and administration of our sports events over the course of the year.





A flavour of the Sporting success can be seen in the Loreto Sports Coordinator's report in the appendices!



Loreto Conferences

Senior Leadership Conferences

Organising the Loreto Conference programme is a central fulfilling part of my role. Not only do the conferences provide valuable CPD and time for reflection, they give our participants the opportunity to connect with their Loreto colleagues and fellow leaders.

We had a lovely gathering at our Post Primary Chairpersons' Conference in October which began with a leisurely lunch and tour of the National Stud and Japanese Gardens. The sun shone for the entire walking tour where we met the 'legends' of Irish racing and enjoyed the autumnal fresh air. The final phase of the 'Managing Meetings for better outcomes' training took place the next day followed by a Chairs' business meeting.

The Gala Dinner gave me the opportunity to thank the Chairs, on behalf of the Trust, for the invaluable and important leadership they give to our schools as voluntary Chairpersons.



It was particularly special as two legendary Loreto leaders stepped down as Chairpersons after decades of service on Boards of Management. Sr Mary O'Connor who has served a lifetime in education and leadership and served for six years as Chair of Loreto College, St Stephen's Green.



Sr Helen O' Riordan has also served a lifetime in Loreto education and her role as Chairperson of Loreto Secondary School, Wexford for 16 years. She also serves on the Provincial Council.

Both Sr Mary and Sr Helen are hugely respected Loreto Chairpersons and we thank them most sincerely for their enormous contribution to their schools and the Chairpersons' network.



The Post Primary Principals' Conference took place on the 9th, 10th and 11th November in Farnham Estate, Cavan. The theme for all the conferences this year, was *Keeping our Focus Fixed* and *Embracing Diversity*. It was an excellent

conference with an engaging the programme including presentations from:

Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children who spoke about the terrific work his office carries out on behalf of children and young people, empowering them to have a voice and addressing issues and rights that need attention. I am very grateful to Dr Muldoon for sharing his insights and experiences with us and for attending all Loreto Leadership Conferences this academic year, and sending a representative from his office to our Student Council Conference Finale in April. His commitment to, and vision for a better Ireland for all children, is inspiring!



Stella O'Malley, Psychotherapist, author and researcher was hugely popular with our conference attendees as she spoke about the challenges some students encounter in navigating their gender identity and the teenage years and how



schools can best offer support and care throughout this journey.



She shared her experience as a psychotherapist and offered us very good advice and guidance on how best to support our students.

Clare Ryan, former Principal and CEO of CEIST, gave all our conference attendees a though provoking and inspiring presentation on reimagining our ethos! Clare asked us challenging questions about how will we preserve this gift of ethos into the future.



The Post Primary Deputy Principals' Conference took place 19th and 20th January. There was a huge turnout with 40 Deputy Principals/Vice Principals from Loreto Voluntary Secondary and Community Schools, including nine newly appointments Deputy Principals and Vice Principals. The programme for the event mirrored the Principals' Conference with an additional engaging presentation from Dr Mark Fennell on LAOS 2022-2026. Mark also presented at the Principals' Spring Conference this month offering senior leaders an opportunity to unpack and internalise the new Department of Education publication.



At the Loreto Principals' Spring Conference, in Co Kildare, we also had the pleasure of Sr Marie Céline Clegg as our guest speaker who shared a reflection entitled 'Learnings on a Leadership Journey'. The presentation, which was warmly welcomed by the Principals included an opportunity for participants to reflect on aspects of their own journey, bearing in mind the current social, political, and cultural realities impacting on

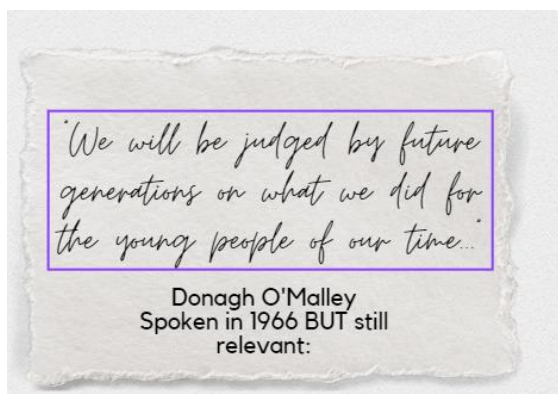


schools and the implications for school leadership.



It was great for our Principals to hear Marie Céline's words of wisdom and encouragement. In her presentation, she remembered fondly her lifelong friends and colleagues, Sr Eileen Randles and Sr Estelle McGoldrick.

She left us with this important message as educational leaders.



With that in mind, at the Principals' Conference in November we paid our heartfelt respects to Sr. Estelle at her online funeral service, acknowledging her kind and caring nature to all who visited and worked in the Education Centre. Sr. Estelle set the standard on how an

Education Centre should welcome and nurture a sense of community. What she did for young people, during her time in education, is immeasurable. May her gentle soul rest in peace.



At the beginning of the month of March we had a terrific Primary Leadership Conference where the senior leaders also had the pleasure of meeting Dr Niall Muldoon, Stella O'Malley and Clare Ryan. It is always great to spend time with our primary colleagues who are carrying out such wonderful and essential work with our smaller citizens. It is a special time for our primary leaders to share experiences and challenges which are no less complex and nuanced than the challenges encountered by our post primary colleagues. There is always much joy in the primary sector with endearing tales of their pupils. In her absence, we congratulated Attracta Swords, former Deputy Principal and Acting Principal of Loreto Primary Senior School in Crumlin. Mary Galligan, Principal of Loreto Primary



Junior School, past pupil and former colleague, gave a lovely speech acknowledging Attracta's lifelong contribution to her school as a teacher and leader.

Some of our post primary senior leaders also retired last year and we want to wish them health and happiness and much joy in their retirements.

At the conference dinners, we heard emotional and heartfelt speeches from colleagues on the extraordinary legacy of these exceptional leaders. Their kindness, care and humility was emphasised in speeches recognising their enormous contribution to their schools. Special memories were shared and in some cases, a life time of commitment to Loreto education was acknowledged. It was a privilege to listen to the accolades and attributes of these exemplary leaders.

At the Principals' and Deputy/Vice Principals' Conference we acknowledged, on behalf of the Trust, the retirements of;

- ✚ Michael James, former Principal, Loreto College Coleraine
- ✚ Billy O'Shea, former Principal of Loreto Secondary School Wexford.
- ✚ Belinda Toner, former Vice Principal and Acting Principal, Loreto College Coleraine
- ✚ Karen Quigley, former Principal, St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield.
- ✚ Bríd Daly former Deputy Principal, Loreto College, Foxrock,
- ✚ Caitriona Turbitt former Vice Principal, Loreto Grammar School, Omagh
- ✚ Carol Keating former Deputy Principal, St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield.





I want to acknowledge Eliza (Loreto Education Centre) for the excellent organisation and planning that went into all our leadership conferences and middle leadership seminars. It is an accepted fact, at this stage, that our conferences are top class experiences. Eliza's attention to detail and event management skills contribute hugely to their success.



Student Council Conferences

A specified goal within the National Children's Strategy is children and young people shall be given a voice in matters which affect them. To this end within a school, a Student Council represents the voice of the student on school matters and has the responsibility to use this voice for the good of the school.

The Loreto Education Centre provides, through our Loreto Network Student Council Co-ordinators, training opportunities for students and liaison teachers. This year's network training day took place in November with 17 secondary

schools coming together online on the morning of 15th November and 6 primary schools on the morning of 24th November.

The theme for the two events was Diversity, Inclusion and Community. Representatives from each school were asked to suggest two ideas for their year plan and to summarise how they hope to continue to embed the theme of diversity and inclusion into their work for the year.

The meetings also saw Sinéad Giblin and Máirín O'Toole explore the role of the Student Council and the 'student voice', the format of a productive meeting through a 'Meeting in Action' and the sharing of good practice and ideas.

The online events also included a brief session for the Student Council Liaison Teachers in the schools, giving them the opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and give consideration as to how they can support their Student Council.

Whilst it is hoped to return to an in-person conference next year the online format ensures as many schools as possible can attend and I am delighted to say we had great attendance. The Student Councils within our schools are extremely proactive and we continue to be inspired and impassioned by the range of activities undertaken. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the events.



Congratulations to TY students in Loreto Beaufort who won the YSI award and will produce a book on Dyslexia Awareness!



27th April will see the schools come together for an end of year gathering. There will be opportunities for the schools to share their activities for the year and consider plans for the next academic year. I am delighted to advise we will also be joined by Aoife McNamara from the Ombudsman for Children's office.

My thanks, as always, to Sinéad Giblin (Loreto College, Foxrock) and Máirín O'Toole (formerly Loreto Secondary School, Bray), our Loreto Network Student



Council Coordinators, for the tremendous work they do in supporting the Student Councils through these training days.

Thank you to Melissa Steele (Loreto Education Centre) for all her help and support in running the Student Council events. Her assistance to both the Student Council and the Debating competitions is invaluable and deeply appreciated by the coordinators, teachers and myself. Thank you also to the school liaison teachers for all that they do to support the Student Council in their schools and for encouraging student voice. They are truly inspiring!



Debates

March 2022 saw the preliminary rounds of the Senior and Junior Debates with the finals taking place, via Zoom, on 18th May 2022. The online forum in no way detracted from the wonderful debating programme we have become used to.



The Junior Final Motion, in keeping with the fact that 2022 was the European Year of Youth, was 'That this house would lower the voting age in Ireland to 16' whilst the Final Motion for the Senior Debates was 'That this house would end Ireland's policy of military neutrality'.



The preliminary and final rounds saw the students show their considerable debating skills, with all teams making a convincing case, clearly explaining their position and responding to the arguments and contests of their opponents. We experienced some spirited, lively debating with students speaking in earnest, confidently and calmly, whilst always considerate of others views.

The Adjudicators had the unenviable task of selecting the winners, who were announced as;

- ✚ Senior Debates Winners 2022:
Loreto Kilkenny Clara Whelan
Foxe and Marie Diver
- ✚ Junior Debates Winners 2022:
Loreto Dalkey Mary-Rose Murnane
and Kate Holland
- ✚ Junior Debates Runners-Up 2022:
Loreto Balbriggan Holly Harpur
and Jessica Barugh
- ✚ Outstanding Speaker Award: Erin
Hennessy (Loreto Crumlin) who
was awarded the Inaugural
Theresa Ball 200 Outstanding
Speaker Trophy.



For the academic year 2022/2023, December 6th saw the online preliminary rounds for the Senior Debating competition and March 3rd for the Junior competition. The motions for the initial rounds, in the Senior competition, were 'This house would abolish the Junior Cycle' and 'This house supports 'Cancel Culture''. In the Junior competition, the motion in Round 1 was, 'This house would ban homework for all primary school students' and in Round 2, 'This house believes smartphones are making us dumb'. As in all previous competitions, the



third motion was only shared with students prior to the commencement of Round 3 and the three agreed topic areas were Young People, Education and Society.

We were delighted to welcome Loreto Grammar School, Omagh who joined at Junior level for the first time.

The finals took place in person, kindly hosted by Loreto High School, Beaufort, on 21st March. After a strongly debated semi-final, teams from Foxrock, Kilkenny and Beaufort progressed to the Junior Final with teams from Beaufort and Kilkenny progressing to the Senior Final.



The motion for the Junior Final was 'This House would ban advertising of unhealthy foods to adults and children' whilst the Motion for the Senior Final was 'This House believes Ireland is no longer a land of Céad Míle Fáilte.

This year again the standard of debating was exceptional, with the winners announced as:

- ✚ Senior Winners 2023: Loreto Beaufort Aoife Copeland and Olivia Monaghan

- ✚ Senior Runners Up 2023: Loreto Kilkenny Medha Trehan and Surabhi Gunjur Sathish
- ✚ Junior Winners 2023: Loreto Foxrock Eve Byrne & Grace Guinan
- ✚ Junior Runners Up 2023: Loreto Kilkenny Eva Nichol & Amy Cahill
- ✚ Teresa Ball Award for Best overall Speaker: Ciara Meaney (Loreto Beaufort, Senior competition)

The year also saw a return to the Public Speaking Competition, the first time since 2019. Six teams competed across Junior and Senior levels with Grace Allen from Loreto Balbriggan announced as the Junior Winner and Aoife Copeland from Loreto High School Beaufort announced as the Senior Winner. Evelyn Roche (Loreto Foxrock) and Mya Madigan (Loreto Foxrock) were the runners-up in the respective categories. The event was kindly hosted by Loreto College Foxrock.





Well done to all students who take part and thank you to our Adjudicators without whom the competitions could not take place, many of whom are former Loreto Students who took part themselves in the Junior and Senior Debating Competitions. Our thanks also to our teachers who support and guide the students and in particular our sincere thanks to Suzanne Lea, Loreto Schools Debates Coordinator (Loreto College, Foxrock) for all the wonderful work she does in organising these events and promoting the skills of debating and public speaking. Her passion for and energy for public speaking and debates has contributed to many students going on to use this valuable skill in their careers.

Guidance Counsellors Network

On behalf of Loreto Education Trust we would like to especially thank Hilda O'Malley (Loreto College, Foxrock) for chairing the Guidance Counsellors Network meetings.

In an already extremely busy schedule, Hilda has communicated with all



Counsellors, to ensure everyone is aware of datelines, and up-to-the-minute information. She is always enthusiastic and gracious in her dealings with everyone. Her voluntary work in this regard is very much appreciated by us and the Guidance Network.

We are delighted to announce our first Guidance Counsellor Conference will be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel, on Wednesday 10th May 2023. It will be a wonderful collaboration of experience and expertise which will be so beneficial to all. We will be joined by Dr Carol Guildea, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Education.



Personal Wellness

I would like to thank Máiread McNally, (Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan), for the wonderful work that she carries out in her role as Loreto Wellbeing Coordinator. Her experience as a Chaplain and the work that she has carried out in relation to National programmes with Sinéad McGrath and NUIG ensures that she brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the role. Máiread's report below will give you an



insight into the work that she has been carrying out on behalf of Loreto Schools.

Loreto Wellbeing Coordinators Report

This academic year as Wellbeing Coordinator I have established a successful working relationship with schools, in particular with School Principals and Wellbeing Coordinators in schools.

I have developed a resource sharing platform via Padlet that Wellbeing Coordinators have access too. This includes Wellbeing Guidelines for Junior Cycle, CPD courses with BeLonGTo, suggestions for guest speakers for schools on wellbeing, teacher wellbeing resources and documents pertaining wellbeing in schools, both at primary and post primary level.

In my role as Wellbeing Coordinator I have been assisting School Leaders and Wellbeing Coordinators in areas of wellbeing. Most of the questions that I have been liaising with Wellbeing Coordinators with are relation to Relationships and Sexuality Education and queries on training and CPD for supporting transgender students and training for staff on Stand Up Awareness Week, which celebrates the inclusion of students who are LGBTQI+, and advice for staff training on supporting students

who are members of the LGBTQI+ community.



I have supported School Management on staff wellbeing. Some of the concerns were around staff being happy in the workplace as they impart much of themselves to their students. In this we explored the overall wellbeing of the person as an employee, considering the work space, the staff room, wellbeing wall for staff, financial wellness and I recommended a guest speaker- Declan Coyle who has developed a one day staff workshop called The Green Platform, this workshop aims to boost staff positivity, happiness and growth- both at a personal and a professional level.



In response to the number of queries on the delivery of effective RSE and also looking at the overall wellbeing of students



in Loreto schools in terms of RSE- I organised a talk with Sinéad McGrath, Sinéad is a trained midwife and nurse. She has worked with NUIG on the Active Consent Programme as a researcher and facilitator and subsequently developed RSE workshops for delivery at post primary level. The talk included information about the challenges to young people's wellbeing in relation to effective Relationship and Sexuality Education. Sinéad spoke from her experience of the delivery of the RSE workshops in Loreto Schools across the country. She showed the types of questions that young people are asking and spoke about the importance of empowering the students with knowledge in the area of RSE and the impact this can have on their overall wellbeing. The feedback from this talk was very positive and it helped Principals, Deputy Principals, Pastoral Care Staff and Well Coordinators get a clearer understanding of where the students' needs are in relation to RSE.

Before the end of this academic year I will be circulating a training manual for Wellbeing Coordinators to use with wellbeing student leaders in their schools. The vision is that students who are wellbeing prefects in schools would attend a training session with their school Wellbeing Coordinator. This team of students would then assist the teacher assigned to the role of wellbeing coordinator with various wellbeing events

in the school. As the role of wellbeing coordinator is still relatively new in the schools, I believe this model would be an effective way of promoting wellbeing amongst staff and the student body, encouraging a more whole school approach to the area of wellbeing.

Máiread McNally
Wellbeing Coordinator

Middle Leaders

This year our Middle Leaders Programme offered seminars on Competency Interviews for Assistant Principal positions, Time Management and Leading through the Ethos Lens. Ann Marie McDonough (Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan) and Peter Macnamara (Principal, Loreto College,



LORETO MIDDLE LEADERS
COMPETENCY BASED INTERVIEWS

As part of the Middle Leaders Programme, this webinar is directed at those applying for AP positions, now or in the future

Monday
27th March 2023
04:30 pm - 05:30 pm

The training will be facilitated by:
Caroline Clarke, Director of Education and Leadership
Peter Macnamara, Principal, Loreto Swords
Ann Marie McDonough, Principal, Loreto Balbriggan

ALL TEACHING STAFF WELCOME

ZOOM LINK WILL BE CIRCULATED, ALTERNATIVELY USE THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE WEBINAR



Swords) have kindly agreed to co facilitate the session on Assistant Principal interviews, which brings a wealth of experience to the seminar.

School Visits

One of the real joys of my role is the opportunity to visit schools, to meet with students and affirm the wonderful work of both staff and students.

One special memory was accepting the invitation to the Loreto Education Centre staff, to visit St Aidan's Community School, to meet the Student Council, the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) class and hear the talented Le Cheile choir and musicians. We were given a warm welcome at the school entrance by the now legendary drummers!

The beautiful choir and music group gave us a joyous rendition of the school anthem. Our time spent with the Student Council was very enjoyable and showcased the high quality leadership being nurtured in the school. The LCA

welcomed us into their impressive beauty salon and the enthusiastic library prefects gave us an insight into their dedicated work. We finished the visit with a relaxed break with China cups and cake provided by our gracious hosts Ms. Maloney, Deputy Principal and Mr Casey, Student Council Coordinator. 'Joy' was evident everywhere we met students and staff, leaving us with special memories of wonderful students, committed staff and a caring close knit community.

Also, Congratulations to Kevin Shortall, Principal and Catriona Abisha, Chaplain, St Aidan's Community School, on the wonderful presentation they gave about their 'living ethos' to the Association of Joint Patrons (AJP) AGM recently.





My visits to other Loreto schools were also special days. I met remarkable Loreto student leaders making a difference to their schools by their care, innovation, vision and role modelling. Also, as is the case in all Loreto schools, I met with exceptional staff and school leaders who work so hard to give our students the most wonderful educational experience.

At Christmas, I attended a heart-warming Carol service by Loreto Junior School, St Stephen's Green, in the Newman University Church. It was a morning of pure delight as, class after class, treated us to hymns and carols under the gentle gaze of their proud families, teachers and Principal, Ms Hogan.

In December I spent a festive afternoon with the committed and talented staff in St Patrick's Loreto Primary in Bray discussing and exploring the COMPASS document. The atmosphere in the school was so warm and welcoming. Staff and pupils were diligently preparing for twenty four Nativity plays!!







Suffice to say that school visits are always one of the highlights of my year and a source of inspiration and joy. My only regret is that I don't get to visit more schools over the course of the year.

Senior Leadership Appointments

Congratulations and best wishes to all our newly appointed Senior Leaders

Loreto Post-Primary Schools

-  Dee Ryan as Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Bray
-  Mary Kelleher as Acting Principal in Loreto College, Crumlin
-  Elaine Dillon as Acting Deputy Principal in Loreto College, Crumlin
-  Gráinne Byrne as Deputy Principal in Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey



- ✚ Fionnuala Gleeson as Deputy Principal in Loreto College, Foxrock
- ✚ Maria Harney as Acting Principal, Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's Navan
- ✚ John Fitzpatrick as Acting Deputy Principal, Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's Navan
- ✚ John McGinnity as Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Wexford
- ✚ Siobhan O'Donoghue as Deputy Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Wexford

Loreto Northern Ireland Schools

- ✚ Stephen Gallagher as Principal, Loreto College, Coleraine
- ✚ Siobhan McCarry as Vice Principal in Loreto College, Coleraine
- ✚ Frances Pepin as Vice Principal in Loreto College, Coleraine
- ✚ SarahJane Fahy as Vice Principal, Grammar School, Omagh

Loreto Community Schools

- ✚ David Clarke as Acting Principal, Portmarnock Community School
- ✚ Orla Coleman as Acting Deputy Principal, Portmarnock Community School
- ✚ Eugene O'Brien, Deputy Principal, Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Youghal

Loreto Primary Schools

- ✚ Mary Galligan as Principal, Loreto Junior Primary School, Crumlin

- ✚ Avril Sheridan as Acting Principal, Loreto Senior Primary School, Crumlin
- ✚ Emma Halstead as Deputy Principal, Loreto Junior Primary School, Crumlin
- ✚ Sheelagh O'Sullivan, Acting Deputy Principal, St Anne's Loreto Primary School, Navan

We are very blessed to have such talented and committed new senior leaders in our schools. It was so good to see them welcomed into the Loreto Principals' and Deputy/Vice Principals' networks by our established senior leaders. Their induction as Loreto leaders is through immersion into the leadership community, through the conference experience, informal and formal mentoring, online meetings and WhatsApp groups. Most importantly they feel belonging in witnessing how we are together, how we relate and support each other, how we share in safe spaces and celebrate each other's success. The laughter, conversation and friendship that permeated all our conferences is testament to the familial nature of our community. The Loreto ethos is truly alive in our community of leaders.



Best wishes to former Principal of Loreto Secondary School Bray, Emma Raughter who has taken up the post of Principal in Kilkenny College and to former Deputy Principal, Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Sally Ronayne, who has relocated to Kilkenny.

Retirements

We wish our former colleagues happiness, good health and many blessings in their retirement.

- ✚ Loreto College, St Stephen's Green; Sr Mary O'Connor, who retired as Chairperson
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, Wexford; Sr Helen O' Riordan, who retired as Chairperson
- ✚ Loreto Education Centre, Sr Ann O'Donoghue who retired as Centre Director and Company Secretary

Also we wish Sr Ann good health and a well-deserved rest upon her retirement

from the Education Centre after many



years of dedicated service to Loreto education

Thanks to Gráinne O' Hanlon, former Principal Loreto Grammar School, Omagh, for her assistance at a time when we had multiple appointments taking place simultaneously. Gráinne brought her considerable expertise to support the Board of Governors in Loreto Coleraine in appointing their new senior leadership team. Thanks also to Melissa for her essential and excellent administrative support to me and the Board of Management Chairpersons in all of these important senior leadership appointments.

Congratulations and best wishes to Billy O'Shea as he takes up his role as the Chairperson of the Loreto Education Trust Board. We look forward to working with you for the good of our schools.

Thank you to Sr. Kathleen for her beautiful prayers and reflections at the beginning of our conferences.





Conclusion

Thank you to all our Board of Management/Governor volunteers at primary and post primary, who give so generously of their time and commitment, to our school leaders who work tirelessly and passionately despite so many challenges and deficits in resources, to our staff who continue to go above, deeper and beyond the call of duty for our students. Thank you to Loreto parents and guardians who support the schools and trust our educators with their precious children and young people.

Finally, in recent days as I write this piece, I've been reflecting on the words of the late Congressman and civil rights leader, John Lewis, that in the space between the world as it is and what we long for it to become, we are called to "live as if" the possibility we aspire to is already present. As educators and leaders, we are challenged to live 'as if' everything is possible and nothing is beyond the reach of our students. We must do this so that they see and believe that their dreams can come true. Our challenge is to make the 'as if' a potential reality, more credible, more vivid, more tangible. This is what our schools offer our students to live as if you are an Olympian, an Irish champion, an Oscar winner, a Nobel Prize laureate, a ground breaking entrepreneur, a

hairdresser, a nurse, an adventurer, a human rights champion, a teacher. Or just simply, to live as if the world was a place that was safe and kind, to embrace the knowledge you can make a meaningful contribution to that world by being kind and caring.

My role encompasses many interesting and challenging aspects of education, leadership and governance. As I approach the five year mark in my Loreto journey, I would like to share that the most inspiring and memorable times were with my senior leadership colleagues and Chairpersons at conferences, visiting their schools, meeting incredible staff who are passionate about their students and of course spending time with the wonderful students who remind me always why I became a teacher. Their contagious energy, diverse talents and desire to change the world for the better, rejuvenates my spirit and reinforces my life long belief that the space we inhabit as educators is a sacred space, a space where young lives can fulfil their potential and become who they truly are if offered a place of belonging, safety and inclusion.

Every year when myself and Sr. Kathleen meet the newly appointed teachers, SNA's and leaders they offer hope and optimism that this incredible sacred space will continue to be inhabited by role models;



inspiring students to fulfil their God given potential.

This is a space that is not only sacred but also privileged and inspiring, that awakens in so many of us in education the agency of our vocation as educators and leaders.

Thank you to all in our schools whom I work alongside, who support me in my role. I would like to wish all our schools every blessing as they approach the end of another academic school year.



Caroline
Clarke
Director of
Education and
Leadership
Loreto
Education Trust Twitter Account
[@ire_edu](https://twitter.com/ire_edu)



Director of Education and Leadership - Loreto Conferences academic year 2022/2023

Conference	Date	Venue
Post Primary Chairpersons Conference	Wednesday 5 th to Thursday 6 th October	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Post Primary Principals Conference	Wednesday 9 th to Friday 11 th November	Farnham Estate, Co Cavan
Post Primary Deputy/Vice Principals Conference	Thursday 19 th to Friday 20 th January	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Primary Leadership Conference	Thursday 2 nd – Friday 3 rd March	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Post Primary Principals Conference	Tuesday 7 th – Wednesday 8 th March	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
	Upcoming Conferences	
Loreto Guidance Counsellors Conference	Wednesday 10 th May	Mullingar Park Hotel
Online Meetings		
Post Primary Principals	Tuesday 6 th September	
Teacher Induction	Wednesday 7 th September	
Post Primary Principals	Thursday 6 th October	
Post Primary Deputy/Vice Principals	Monday 17 th October	
Student Council	Tuesday 15 th November	
Student Council Primary Schools	Thursday 24 th November	
Post Primary Principals	Thursday 15 th December	
Post Primary Principals	Wednesday 25 th January	
Guidance Counsellors	Friday 10 th February	
Chairs Meeting	Monday 13 th March	
Guidance Counsellors	Thursday 23 rd March	



Remembrance



Estelle McGoldrick IBVM, RIP

It was with deep sadness that we received the news of the death of Sister Estelle McGoldrick on 1 November 2022, RIP. Having attended Loreto College, North Gt George's Street for her second level education, Philomena entered the Novitiate in Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham on 4 November 1966, taking the name 'Estelle' the mere mention of which will evoke very happy memories for all those who knew and loved her over so many years. Following her Third Level studies, Estelle taught in Loreto, Balbriggan, as a teacher of Business Studies, and subsequently lived and ministered in St Stephen's Green, Rathfarnham, Beaufort House, Casa Loreto in Rome and Greenville Road.

From the mid 1990's, Estelle was at the very heart of the Loreto Network of schools but would never have taken credit for the extraordinary impact which her presence and warmth of personality had on all those for whom she was the first point of contact, initially in 'The Lodge', and, subsequently, in Loreto Education Centre, Foxrock. To quote one school Principal: "I always felt better having spoken to Estelle who never failed to say the word that I needed to hear at any given time. She was a professional to her finger tips but a person who, above all, prayed, cared and listened deeply..."

On her retirement from the Loreto Education Centre, Estelle assisted Elizabeth Cotter IBVM, vice-Postulator of the Cause for the Beatification of Mary Ward, and was thereby involved in communication with the Mary Ward family globally.

Estelle's motto, chosen at Profession, 'Your Will be done', guided her IBVM journey of faithful service inspired by the charism of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball. There is sadness in the loss that Estelle's family and all of us continue to experience but the memories that we treasure will never leave us.

Sr Marie Céline, IBVM



Michael Meade, RIP

Michael Meade sadly passed away on the 8th of November 2022. Mr. Meade was appointed the first Principal of St. Aidan's Community School upon its foundation in 1984. Michael was a gifted teacher, most recently of Irish, Latin and Classical Studies but to those who knew him, also an unparalleled scholar of Philosophy, Theology, History, Pedagogy, Music, Sport and just about everything else. He loved fun and fiddle playing and made it his business that everyone around him was safe, comfortable, satisfied, happy and involved. He championed the underdog and was fearless in his pursuit of equality for those disadvantaged. He never judged any student and was relentless in finding ways for everyone to succeed. He was a lover of learning and knowledge but spent much of his energy on those that found knowledge and learning most difficult to access.

Michael nurtured a culture of high expectation and aimed for excellence, but always understood that education meant that every participant had an experience of success. The mission statement he championed, uses the word learning once but the word everybody three times. More than anything else Michael Meade was a good man who dedicated his life to the service of others. The mark of a great leader is that even though they move on, their work continues and their legacy lives on. Michael's Meade's footprints will always lead the way in St. Aidan's Community School, his light will shine through any dark day and his heart beats strong in the goodness of the team he built and the culture they continue to grow.

Rest in Peace Michael, your life's work continues to change lives.

Kevin Shortall
Principal St. Aidan's Community School
Brookfield - Tallaght



Mrs Aileen Bunyan, Loreto Abbey Dalkey

1969-1998 A Tribute

Mrs Aileen Bunyan died peacefully in the care of her family on the 11th December 2022.

Excellent teacher, especially in the field of History, ideal Deputy Principal, inspirational role model as the first lay Principal of a Loreto Secondary School in Ireland, Mrs. Aileen Bunyan was a popular, well-loved member of the Staff of Loreto Abbey Dalkey for 29 years. Although a loyal Dominican past pupil all her life, nevertheless, there is no doubt that Aileen became “more Loreto than the Loreto’s themselves.” Her understanding of and devotion to the charism of Mary Ward as transmitted to Ireland by M. Teresa Ball was deeply held. She led the Pilgrimage to Rome in 1985 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Mary Ward’s birth, impressing all with the preparation provided for the student pilgrims, her understanding of the significance of what was celebrated as well as her unwavering conviction that the IBVM Loreto charism was yet to be fully realised.

However, Aileen was so much more than the consummate professional. A beloved wife, mother, and friend, she brought her wonderful personal gifts of warmth and care to enrich her undoubted professional excellence. It was a great privilege to serve with her in Dalkey and a joy to hand over its Principalship into her capable hands in 1990. For all Aileen brought, both personally and professionally, to Loreto Abbey Dalkey and to the wider Loreto Family by her generous participation on Boards and in Committees, the Loreto Family owes Aileen an enormous debt of gratitude. She will be forever remembered with joy and deep pride.

Elizabeth Cotter IBVM, Member of the Loreto Education Trust 2023

Last IBVM Principal of Loreto Abbey Dalkey, 1985-1990



Sr Angela Powell RIP

Known by many of her students and the people of Fermoy as Sr Martin, Angela died on the 14th February, 2023.

Angela is synonymous with Loreto Secondary School Fermoy having spent over forty years there, first as a student, then as a member of the teaching staff, head of the boarding school and finally as School Principal.

After her retirement Angela was appointed to a new role in 2001. She left her beloved Co. Cork and ventured to Dublin to work as Properties Manager for the Loreto Education Trust. This she did for 11 years. During these years she worked with Loreto School Principals advising on school buildings, helping with applications for emergency works and negotiating finance with the Department of Education for the upgrading of many of our school buildings. She was tireless in her efforts to get the best for all our schools. She worked with many officials in the building unit of the Department of Education and was highly regarded for her work and expertise. Nothing was too hard for Angela. She always went the extra mile.

Her wisdom, common sense and sound advice were very much appreciated on the Boards of Management on which she served - Gorey Community School and St. Michael's Navan.

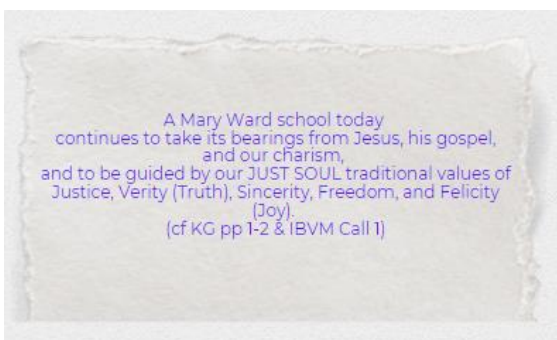
Since her death many heartfelt tributes have been paid to Angela. May she now be rewarded for her good work and may her gentle soul rest in peace.

Sr Ann O'Donoghue, IBVM



Faith Development Coordinator Report

Introduction



The dialogue of faith and life is in the fabric of all aspects of school life, evident in the way we express our Loreto characteristic spirit, our particular graced way of living out the vision of Catholic education. As Mary Ward's "company of friends," with increasing challenges in schools occasioned by the pandemic and other factors, we have shared times of joy and sorrow; we have prayed for and supported each other in times of bereavement and loss and celebrated each other's achievements.



The following account offers selected examples of our work in collaboration with the schools as we are guided by our Mary Ward Schools' Compass to build on "the foundation of our God-given charism" and "seek to invest in the holistic growth of our school community" in a spirit of justice, freedom sincerity, truth and joy.

Conferences

All gatherings, such as conferences and seminars, organised by the Loreto Education Centre seek to "create opportunities for all members of the Loreto community to build and share understandings of Loreto identity in practice in Loreto education." Such meetings include the following:



Induction for New Teachers

The induction evening for new staff in Loreto schools took place on 7 September as an online event and it was attended by over one hundred participants. An important focus of this input is on Loreto



ethos in our schools with presentations and shared reflections on Mary Ward, Teresa Ball, Catholic Education and The Mary Ward Schools' Compass.

Conference for RE Teachers and Chaplains

In September, the Religious Education Conference took place with the following programme:

- *Welcome & Opening Prayer*
- *New Developments in Senior Cycle RE – Siobhan O Donoghue, Loreto, Wexford*
- *A Spirituality for Today (with reference to Ignatian Reflection Programmes for TY and 5th year) – Anne Farren IBVM*
- *Ember Teams: A Model for Faith Leadership in Schools – Máiread McNally, Loreto, Balbriggan and Ciaran Coll, Holy Faith, Glasnevin*
- *What can Godly Play offer to Post Primary Schools? Cora O'Farrell, DCU*
- *Conclusion & Discussion on what support RE Teachers need, challenges for the RE Teacher, Retreat Teams Booklet Updated etc.*

The choice of subject matter was guided by discussions with RE Departments about what might enhance the teaching

and learning in RE class as well as nourish the spirituality of both teachers and pupils.



Chaplains' Conference

The Chaplains' Conference was in Maynooth on 24 November, in collaboration with the Dublin Diocese, the Spiritan Education Trust and the Le Chéile Schools Trust with the following programme:

- *Welcome & Opening Prayer*
- *School Retreats – Scripture Union Team*
- *Crosscare Services – Teenage issues and supports available - Sinead Harris*
- *Action to Prevent Trafficking - Ann Kelleher and Sr Liz Byrne*
- *The use of Labyrinths as a prayer tool - Caroline Lundy*
- *Supporting Ukrainian Students - Fr Vasyl Kornitsky (Chaplain to the Ukrainian Community)*
- *Sharing of the updated Retreats for Schools Booklet*



The programme which the participants found relevant and helpful built on the previous conferences for chaplains we had last year which included inputs on *Ignatian Spirituality* and *Healing and Hope in Times of Anxiety*.

Principals' Conference

The conferences for post primary Principals, Deputy Principals and primary leadership teams have been outlined in greater detail in this report and provided further opportunities to "build and share understandings of Loreto identity in practice in Loreto education."

Student Council Training Days

The Student Council Training Days, referenced earlier in this report were enjoyed by both primary and post primary pupils. This excellent training emphasised the importance of the student voice in contributing positively to school life. That night, we had an excellent follow-up to this



training day as the Student Council from St Aidan's Community School met us at the Board of Management meeting to share their plans for the year.

Loreto Characteristic Spirit

Our Ethos Committee comprised of ethos representatives/ambassadors from the schools have met regularly during the year to review inputs which are then shared with the wider school community. These have included various presentations on the Mary Ward Schools' Compass, Continuing the Journey, The Tradition of Loreto Education of Mary Ward and



Teresa Ball, and The Values of the Catholic School expressed in Loreto Ethos. Our conversations and meetings provided opportunities to share ideas and resources, to plan for aspects of Mary Ward Week and for our Reflection on Ethos Day. There is great interest in building on our Australia-Ireland gathering online where teachers and students joined



in conversation on their reflections on Mary Ward, Teresa Ball, and our shared values. This connection was expressed during the first term when the Ethos Prefects from Kilkenny travelled to Dalkey to meet and share with the Ember and Solas Teams. This energy, enthusiasm and cherishing of our values shone through our conference on 8 February.

Reflection on Ethos Day



Our annual Reflection Day this year focused on Ethos. Attended by both primary and post primary schools, it was a most uplifting and energising day, replete with wisdom and insight both staff and students shared with faith, hope, joy and love.

Loreto ethos has always been deeply valued and lived out in our school communities - and it continues to be. This is due to the commitment and cherishing of the Loreto tradition we all share and the accompanying delight in passing it on to all new members - both students and staff of our Loreto family in each school.

This was abundantly obvious in the vibrant presentations touching profoundly into the heart of who we are: a Loreto community,

- Catholic schools, - living reflectively our God-given Mary Ward values, and deepening our understanding of this gift we have through our inspiring documents, "congruous to the times," including Continuing the Journey and The Mary Ward Schools' Compass. We were also delighted to be brought up to date by Sr Elizabeth's fascinating presentation on The Cause of Venerable Mary Ward: Preserving her Vision and Values in Perpetuity. The presentations for the conference which were subsequently shared with all our schools are as follows:



- Welcome and Opening Reflection Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Eliza Connolly
- *Ethos Programme for 1st Years*. Des Fitzgerald Jane Kelly St Stephen's Green
- *The Cause of Venerable Mary Ward: Preserving her Vision and Values in Perpetuity* Sr Elizabeth Cotter
- *Mary Ward Values in our New Loreto Prayer Book for Primary Schools* Fiona McKenna Elaine Howard Loreto Primary School Dalkey
- *Loreto Ethos, the Mary Ward Schools Compass and Catholic Education* Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick



- *Ethos and Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation* Chantelle Delahoy, Loreto High School, Beaufort
- *A Loreto Camino* Hannah Gallagher
- *Supporting a Strong Community through JPIC* Meadhbh Cleary, Nudrat Mir, Ailbhe Finn, Elizabeth Idowu Loreto College, Swords
- *The Role of the Ethos Prefects* Marian Moran, Shannon Dwyer, Amy Walton, Orla Shields, Eva Lavelle Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny
- *Expressions of Loreto Ethos* Feenagh Davey and Claire Lawler Loreto Secondary School, Wexford
- *Supporting Loreto, Rumbek and our intercultural richness* Denise Caffrey Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan
- *Loreto Ethos Module for Senior Religion* Siobhan O'Donoghue Loreto Secondary School, Wexford. Mary Nethercott Loreto College, Cavan.
- *Reflections on the Teresa Ball Serenity Garden and Ember and Solas Teams* Monica Delaney, Will Flanagan, Gabrielle Furlong, Anna Sewell, Laura Stapleton, Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey
- *Sharing our Reflections on Ethos*



School Visits

A privileged and enjoyable aspect of the role is the opportunity to visit the schools. Such visits have included meetings with the school leadership team, the chaplain and RE department, inputs on the *Mary Ward Schools' Compass* and our Loreto characteristic spirit, training for student faith leadership teams, visiting the various class groups across a range of subjects and meeting student committees such as the JPIC group and the Student Council. They have also included memorial services, school Masses, school fetes, retreats, graduation and prizegiving ceremonies, Mary Ward Week and Catholic Schools' Week celebrations.



The schools visited this year are:

- ✚ Loreto Primary School, Dalkey.
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny
- ✚ Loreto Junior Primary School, Crumlin.
- ✚ Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Loreto Primary School, Letterkenny.
- ✚ Loreto Senior Primary School, Crumlin.
- ✚ Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey.



- ✚ Loreto Primary School, Grange Road.
- ✚ St Anne's Loreto Primary School, Navan.
- ✚ Loreto College, St Stephen's Green.
- ✚ St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield.
- ✚ Loreto College, Mullingar.
- ✚ Loreto Abbey Secondary School Dalkey.
- ✚ Loreto College, Cavan.
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, Wexford.
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's, Navan.
- ✚ Loreto High School, Beaufort.
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan.
- ✚ Loreto College, Swords.
- ✚ Loreto Secondary School, Wexford.

The remaining schools will be visited in the second and third terms.

frequently involves the arts creatively expressing the language of belief. Resources for teaching and prayer in our schools include paintings, music and literature which reflect the liturgical seasons of the year. At key moments of celebration such as the annual Mary Ward Week, Catholic Schools' Week, and The Teresa Ball Bicentenary, students are invited to create artistic expressions of our shared values, of our understanding of our Loreto characteristic spirit, of reflections and prayer. The beautiful sacred spaces in the prayer rooms and chapels and the daily morning prayer in our schools created by staff and students bear eloquent testimony to this partnership of faith and the arts.



Faith and the Arts

Throughout the past years, music, visual art and creative writing have played an important role in the sharing of faith in our schools. This is in harmony with the perspectives of theologians such as Jeremy Begbie and David Martin who assert that a new kind of space for religiosity is being opened up in contemporary society, a space which





Music and Faith

The dialogue of music and faith, in particular, continues in a range of ways in our schools in our engagement with music which enhances and deepens the experience of liturgy and in collaborative projects such as the Emmanuel and Laudate Programmes, evenings of music and reflection in the Dublin diocese for post primary and primary schools respectively. It is also expressed in Loreto compositions such as the beautiful Loreto World Anthem *SHE* written specially in Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny to celebrate Teresa Ball and two hundred years of Loreto education and the joyous musical tribute to Teresa Ball and Loreto 200 by Loreto Grammar School, Omagh.

Both pieces have featured throughout the year in various Loreto events and their inclusion of the contribution of Loreto schools from all over the world in these performances is a musical expression of our international diversity as a “mirroring of the wonder of creation” (Mary Ward Schools’ Compass).



Music and The Mary Ward Family: Loreto Anthem and a New Cantata

This international musical expression of our identity as Mary Ward schools is also found in a new cantata *CALLED TO BE HAPPY* composed by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon and commissioned by the Maria Ward Schule, Mainz, Germany. The composition, described as music “for young women seeking to find their way in the world,” is “written in honour of Mary Ward, a seventeenth century English woman whose vision and unshakeable optimism enabled her to found the first non-enclosed religious order for women. The cantata draws parallels between her life experiences and those of young women today.” The scores for this composition will be available later this term and we look forward to engaging with this new music.

<https://www.roseconlonmusic.co.uk/cal led-to-be-happy>



Primary Schools' Gathering: Music and Faith

Before the pandemic, the primary schools had an annual gathering of staff and pupils in Summer. We are resuming this tradition on 28 April with *Loreto Primary Schools Celebrating Music and Faith*. Since May we have had many discussions with the primary schools on what form this might take. Thanks to the vision and enthusiasm of all involved, especially Aileen Kennedy and Sr Maria Hyland, we have a venue (Rathfarnham) and details of the music for the programme scheduled for 28 April 2023. We are fortunate to be able to have the first part of our event in Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, the first Loreto school opened in 1822. The Abbey is now home to Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh who have graciously given us access to the school for this date. The second part of our celebration will take place in Loreto Primary School, Grange Road.



Student Faith Leadership (Ember, Ember Ignite and Solas) Training Days

We are blessed in Loreto schools to have such committed teachers who provide ongoing support to a range of Student Faith Leadership groups which have been set up in the school.



As a member of the Dublin Diocesan Ember Core Team, it is delightful to see the impact of this programme in schools thanks to the commitment of teachers and pupils. This team of six people is a joy to work with and we have meetings throughout the year for ongoing planning of events and resources. Since our last account of this work, we have had a graduation ceremony in DCU where the Ember Teams shared the activities they have been engaged in during the past year. These were centred on faith and justice, liturgy, supporting their peers and teachers in whatever way they considered appropriate. This was followed by the



celebration of the Eucharist and the presentation of certificates. At the graduation, we also invited three past Ember members from Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, St Mary's Secondary School, Glasnevin and St Michael's College, Ballsbridge who spoke about the importance of faith in their lives and how the Ember programme has deepened and nourished it.



The three-day training sessions for Ember Faith Leadership Teams in Dublin were planned and took place at Ovoca Manor in August and September with other schools in the Dublin Diocese. Special thanks to the Dublin Diocesan Education Secretariat and Scripture Union for the organisation and hosting of these nine days. Ember Ignite and Solas Teams in Loreto schools outside Dublin have followed a redesigned programme which includes core elements of the Ember programme with additional aspects from the Mary Ward Schools' Compass, the vision and life-stories of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball, and Reflection in Daily Life. The flexibility of

this programme has involved core aspects of the training being facilitated by the teachers and myself in the school for one day while other sections have been addressed throughout the first term. The team members then received a certificate and an Ember Ignite badge at the commissioning prayer service. Such flexibility has seen Loreto Secondary School, Wexford have both their training and commissioning service in the beautiful Parable Garden in Co Wexford. Loreto College, Cavan was able to have fifty members, and Loreto College, Mullingar engaged in an excellent collaboration between three schools: Loreto College, St Mary's College and St Finian's College as teachers from those schools as well as three students from Notre Dame University, USA, who are doing their practical experience for their MA joined us for the workshop. During the year such teams have met online for prayer services and to share on subjects including Mary Ward, Teresa Ball, Reflection and synodality. We returned to DCU on 17 January for an Ember Renewal Day and graduation will take place in May 2023. Special thanks to the teachers who accompany their teams and to the Principals who facilitate them. Ember, Ember Ignite and Solas teams are undoubtedly enriching their school communities as they put their own vibrant words, music and imagery on the language of faith "congruous to our times."



Mary Ward Week

Our annual celebrations of Mary Ward Week followed the theme of *Walking in the Footsteps of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball* with a special focus on the core value of Freedom. Resources were sent in advance to the schools who held prayer services, debates, a *camino* in solidarity with the arduous pilgrimage to Juba for the papal visit undertaken by the Loreto school community in Rumbek, inputs on Loreto missions, as well as artistic and musical events to mark this special week. This year, students and staff were invited to send their reflections on “What Mary Ward means to me” to Sister Elizabeth Cotter at the Office for the Cause of Mary Ward, Loreto International House.



Pilgrimage

The enjoyment of taking part in the transformative experience of the Camino

de Santiago or walking the routes of Teresa Ball so beautifully planned in the booklet by Jenny Edwards, a Director of the Loreto Education Trust, have led to conversations about a Loreto pilgrimage. We are revisiting our proposed camino for staff to Mary Ward Country and looking at possibilities for staff and students in our schools who are interested in this pilgrimage.

Online Prayer for Schools

Our online prayer initiative for the schools which began in 2020 during lockdown due to Covid 19 originally as a prayer time for Loreto schools and later as a collaboration between our Loreto Trust and the Dublin Diocese has grown over the two and a half years to include other Trusts. Most recently, Ceist and Le Chéile schools have joined us. We all have in-person prayer services and liturgies in our schools now so the need for this is not as great as during the covid lockdown. However, people continue to welcome the various reflection times and join us for them. Therefore, following on from our September *Season of Creation* online prayer services, we have hosted a series of online prayer times for Advent: *Space for Grace* and currently have another series for Lent 2023: *Lent: A Doorway of Renewal*.

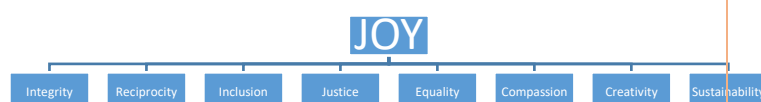


Féile Rangeela: A Collaboration Between India and Ireland Celebrating Diversity

A Mary Ward school today embraces diversity as a mirroring of the wonder of Creation. Seeing the image of God in human diversity, we encourage the young to discover their interdependence so they each find their own dignity – “I am because you are” – and feel truly affirmed and included. (cf KG pp 6-7; IBVM Call 5)

The FÉILE RANGEELA project (Sharing our culture, sharing our skills) celebrating diversity in an interchange of presentations and dialogue on selected cultural celebrations continues between the Atlantic Technological University, Galway, Dublin City University, Jesuit Order (India), ‘Loyola Academy CBSE Senior Secondary School’, Chennai, India, Loreto, College, St Stephen’s Green, and the Loreto Education Centre. It proved to be a rich experience for all involved last year and our focus for 2022-2023 is Diwali and St Brigid. This project, formalised in 2020 with our partner organisations established leadership and project management teams, and worked on the first pilot exchange projects in 2021-2022. The mission of the Féile-Rangeela project is to celebrate and promote a joyful mutual exchange of culture, race and religion, in the context of education. The project ethos is shaped by defining values shared by the Jesuit, Loreto and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology communities. At

the heart of the ethos of the project is the core value of JOY, which is promoted and sustained by the companion values of integrity, reciprocity, inclusion, justice, equality, compassion, creativity and sustainability.



At the online showcase in April 2022, the schools presented and evaluated their art projects which celebrated JOY in daily life, in religious traditions and culture with stunningly beautiful art and insightful reflections. This year, continuing the theme of Joy, we are, at present working on a joint project: *Celebrations of Diwali and Saint Brigid* for our online showcase on 9 March, 2023.





schools. We have regular meetings throughout the year and, as ethos permeates all aspects of school management and is not a separate part of school life, we address a range of subjects. These include:

Loreto Schools' Spirituality Team

The Loreto Schools' Spirituality Team members led by Sr Anne Farren have continued to deliver programmes to fourth and fifth years students in our schools. This Prayer Team offers weeks of guided prayer to senior students as well as two excellent and well-received programmes:

- ✚ To the Heart of Who I am – for Transition Year Students
- ✚ Making Good Decisions -for 5th Year Students (recently updated)

We also invited Anne to give an input on Ignatian Spirituality at our Religious Education Conference this year. We greatly appreciate our collaboration with this group and the contribution they make to our schools.

APTCS Ethos Committee and Liturgy Subcommittee

The Ethos Subcommittee was formed in November 2021 with the purpose of having “conversations about how we might share good practice in relation to supporting and developing the Catholic ethos and faith-based education of our

✚ Synodal process / Genesis research

We have engaged in reflection on the Genesis Report and training to share this document with others at meetings which will be held in the ten AMCSS regions, facilitated by a Principal or Chairperson from the Region and one Trust representative.

(The Catholic Primary Schools Management Association, the Catholic Education Partnership, and the Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools, commissioned the consulting firm Genesis to measure public attitudes towards how schools of a Catholic ethos are perceived in our pluralist educational system. This survey of 500 parents of school-going children, both primary and secondary, conducted in April 2019 was followed by qualitative research which consisted of 12 interviews with Principals and 14 interviews with chairs and four focus groups of parents of children in primary and second level. The positive response was expressed in their valuing of the holistic development of their children, citing a focus on respect,



community and faith formation as the three leading advantages of Catholic schools.)

✚ **APTCS Padlet** with resources for the liturgical seasons and other significant dates where we share our documents and presentations.

✚ **SPHE / RSE** (response to NCCA curriculum proposals).

✚ We compiled a list of **courses /CPD** days organised by our respective Trusts to share with the wider group.

Further ongoing initiatives and events

- The celebrations of the Bicentenary 1821-2021 were recorded in last year's Annual Report. Further events such as the launch of *Teresa Ball and Loreto Education: Convents and the Colonial World, 1794-1875* by Deirdre Raftery took place in May 2022. In Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's, Navan, the beautiful *Teresa Ball Way* was formally opened in April 2022. In May 2022, I met the choir and orchestra in Loreto, Kilkenny for a final celebration of the beautiful Loreto World Anthem: SHE composed by Sadhbh and Siofra Ni Chasaide.
- *Bible Journalling*

- *Workshop on Ignatian Discernment facilitated by Gemma Simmonds CJ*
- *JPIC - Mary Ward Laudato Si' 7 Year Action Plan*
- *Loreto Schools Spirituality Programme*
- *Christian Mindfulness – Metanoia and Mindfulness*
- *Synodality and the Loreto Family*
- *Bereavement and Loss*
- *School Retreats*
- *Science and Religion*
- *School of Sanctuary and children from Ukraine*
- *Godly Play and Godly Think*
- *Faith and Justice – The Kitchen Table* A project for past pupils in collaboration with the Spiritan Trust, DCU and MIE Chaplaincy and the Education Secretariat, Dublin Diocese.
- *Credible Catholic Programme*
- *Praying with Mary Ward's Core Values: Loreto Prayer Book for Primary Schools*
- *Archives – Research on Delphine Harte and Loreto in India.* This is linked to the Féile Rangeela India-Ireland project referenced above.



Conclusion



We Remember with Love and Gratitude

Many in our school community have been bereaved in the past year. Members of both staff and students have sadly lost parents, grandparents, and siblings. We hold all in our hearts and prayers.

From our retired Loreto Education community, we mourn the death of

Michael Meade
Sr Estelle McGoldrick
Aileen Bunyan
Sr Angela Powell

who contributed so much to our Loreto schools with their vision, generosity, commitment, graciousness, faith, hope and love.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uaisle.

Collaboration together as Mary Ward's "company of friends" always enhances and makes more relevant the work in which we are engaged. Similarly, the work of faith development has been greatly enriched by collaboration with our Loreto education community and with the people and organizations referenced above in Ireland and in our world-wide Loreto family. These include colleagues in the Loreto Education Centre, our Loreto schools and boards, catechetical and faith development teams, theology departments, spirituality and retreat groups, as well as those specifically concerned with faith and justice, Catholic education in contemporary Ireland, art and faith, interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, liturgy and the dialogue between science and religion. We are grateful for their collegiality, insights and support. Ignatian reflection has continued to be a leitmotif throughout our meetings and resources this year as we encourage each other to be "reflective and discerning in the spirit of our Loreto and Ignatian tradition." This practice is of paramount importance to help us in our decision-making, particularly in face of challenging questions such as those found in the national and international



conversations on what truly constitutes human flourishing.

Moreover, our spirituality affirms the wholesome recognition that, as Patrick Kavanagh asserted, God is in the “bits and pieces of everyday life” the light and darkness, the sorrow and joy, in all aspects of our lives.

This is expressed in the words of the theologian Karl Rahner which we included in our reflections on Ignatian freedom this year:

*One does not
enter a temple—
a shrine
that encloses the holy
and cuts it off
from a godless and secular world
that remains outside.
This entire world belongs to God,
who is adored, experienced, and
accepted everywhere
as the one who, through grace,
has set all things free to come to
share his life.
This adoration takes place not in
Jerusalem alone
but everywhere in spirit and truth.*

Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM
Faith Development Co-ordinator



Office Manager and Finance Officer Report

For the year ended 31st August 2022 the Loreto Education Trust incurred an operating deficit of €96,045 compared to a surplus of €44,000 in the previous year.

The increased costs reflect an increase in costs generally together with making available a 'Bridging the Gap' Fund in the sum of €35,000 with the purpose of providing support to the schools following the impact of Covid-19. The year also saw a return to a number of 'in-person' conferences and the bi-centenary celebration of Teresa Ball.

The Trust generated a negative investment return with the investment portfolio reducing by €428,000. We continued, during the financial year, to position our investment portfolio extremely conservatively.

For the coming year, Loreto Education Trust is budgeting for an operating deficit of €102,000. Licence fees will be maintained at unchanged levels while our costs continue to increase modestly.

Governance

Over the period, work continued on compliance with the Charities Governance Code and on submission of our Annual Report to the Regulator in June 2022, the Trust declared compliance with the Code. Work continues to ensure ongoing compliance.



The Trust, as patron, also has a governance role in relation to the schools. Under Article 15c of the Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools, the Board of Management must prepare an annual budget and submit same to the Trustees. The schools are also required to submit a copy of their Year End Financial Statements/Accounts. The accounts will have been presented to the school's Board of Management for approval and signed by the Chairperson and another member of the Board. The financial information is reviewed in detail and for the Financial Statements to the Year End 31st August 2022, a report will be prepared for the Trust Board of Directors with general and school specific



issues raised with the relevant school Board of Management.

The schools are also required to complete an Annual School Board of Management Report. The information required falls under a number of headings including education, ethos, leadership, governance and finance. The detail of the reports are reviewed within the Education Centre and a report on the responses prepared for the Loreto Education Trust Board. The schools are also requested to submit a Declaration in relation to the financial activity and position of the school.

The Education Centre seeks to continually support the schools and their Boards of Management in their governance and financial roles. Our intention is to continue to work with the FSSU in providing the relevant training at our Principal and Chairpersons' Conferences.

As Office Manager & Finance Officer, with responsibility for Governance and Finance within the Education Centre, I will work to continue supporting the schools in financial management and compliance on a day-to-day basis, as required.

Melissa Steele

Office Manager and Finance Officer



Northern Ireland Report 2023

General

Although Covid is far from gone, schools have returned to their "new normal" this past year with restrictions lifted and public examinations restored.

The Independent Review of Education in Northern Ireland has published its Interim report. The Catholic schools' community has engaged with the Review via the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service (CSTS) and individual Trusts.





The Commission for Catholic Education (CCMS) was to have begun a review/analysis of the changes brought about by the post-Primary review over the last fifteen years or so. To date this does not appear to have progressed as individual trusts were to have been invited to contribute.

On February 4th 2022 the Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed and remains so. This has contributed very significantly to already acute challenges in all public services. Any decisions that are being made are being made by Permanent Secretaries. In the case of education this is Dr Mark Brown.



Strule Shared Education Campus (SSEC)

The renewed optimism that resurfaced last year re the progress of the SSEC in Omagh was tempered with a slower pace in the latter half of 2022. This was largely due to the collapse of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the significant disruption within the construction industry due to current economic and political challenges.



Following a review of Governance and Management of the shared areas on the Strule campus, all Trustees/Managing Authorities have agreed that a Company structure is the most appropriate body to oversee the shared areas. The Company will be set up in Charities House and charitable status sought/secured.

It is anticipated that the Main Contract will not now be signed until the third quarter of 2023. Previously this had been hoped to have occurred in the first quarter of 2023. In a letter to Trustees/ Managing Authorities dated 9th Jan 2023, Mr John Smith, Deputy Secretary Department of Education, informed them that the anticipated completion date had again slipped back to Sept 2027 (formally September 2026). The letter detailed the reasons for this further delay.

Prior to the signing of the Main Contract, a number of key policies/models need to be signed off by all trustees. These include the Funding model, the Apportionment Model (the amount each school will contribute to running the shared areas), the Agreement for Lease for individual school sites and common areas, and a skeleton Company formed consisting of



trustee representative directors. The anticipated completion date for the campus is now September 2027, with construction beginning in Spring 2024. Full details of the SSEC can be viewed at www.strule.org.

Representatives of the Trust Board met with KPMG on 8th April 2022, a consultancy firm employed by the local council to assist with integrating the vacated school sites into the council's Area Plan. This was largely a consultative meeting. The latest documents re Clawback and Demolition were forwarded to Sr Carmel Swords as the Province Leader. Both of these can only be finalised closer to the campus completion date.

Napier Solicitors Belfast oversee the interests of the Catholic schools in the SSEC project.

Academic Selection Loreto Grammar School, Omagh

Loreto Grammar School Omagh (LGSO) is currently advancing a Development Proposal (DP) that will replace the 2016 DP which committed the school to removing academic selection. The new DP will legalise/legitimise the school's desire to remain at its present position of a 50% non-academic intake. It is hoped that this will be in place to accommodate the September 2024 intake. The Trustees have asked for a commitment, previously

given, to remove academic selection completely following the school's move to the new shared campus.

Loreto College, Coleraine

In March 2022 a ministerial statement by Mrs Michelle McIlveen identified 28 schools in the Department of Education's Major Capital Works Programme (MCWP). These schools will now move to "Advance in Planning" stage and will benefit from a c. £794m of capital investment. Loreto College Coleraine (LCC) is included in this programme. Given the disappointment felt at not receiving the more significant funding of School Enhancement Programme monies at the time of the post-Primary review's rationalization of Catholic education in the Coleraine back in 2016/2017, this is excellent news for LCC. The time-frame for MCWP is c. 10-year cycles.

Conclusion

It is difficult to recall a period when education had to navigate such a combination of challenging episodes/circumstances. Principals, Boards of Governors, teachers, staff, pupils and parents deserve the greatest affirmation and admiration for the manner in which they have and continue to serve their school communities.

Brian Lenehan
January 2023



Loreto Rumbek Primary School, South Sudan

The school serves as a gateway for girls from the local community to attend the secondary school after obtaining a high quality primary education.

Dear Friends,

November has been a month of rejoicing, outreach and graduations! Many of our graduates have enjoyed their graduations in Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan. Two of our former interns have qualified as Secondary School teachers and are back on the staff with us, we also welcomed back to our former male interns who qualified as Primary Teachers.

Every year we try to reach out to the local community in different ways, this year our Peace club ventured into the village to share a message of peace, hope and girl child education with the local elders and community. It was a great morning and

the community have requested the girls to come back again.

We can't forget all the efforts for dressing up over these weeks! The Secondary School had their annual Ms Loreto competition while the Primary School engaged in a Fancy Dress competition.

These weeks have been marked by good fun, teamwork and now as the exam season sets in a touch of seriousness!

Blessings from all of us in Loreto Rumbek

We have incorporated the Loreto Rumbek Annual Report 2022 in the link below. Scan or Copy and paste the link below into a browser to see the full report.



Or

<https://qrco.de/RumbekRpt22>





Property Adviser Report



March 2023



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School	Development	Funding
Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan	Major repairs to the roof of the 1983 building	€213,536 DE funded
Loreto High School, Beaufort	A five stage development plan to meet the ongoing needs of the school is being finalised before being forwarded to the Trust and Province	
Loreto Secondary School, Bray	Approval for the new school building has moved to Stage 2B	
Loreto College, Cavan	Balancing payment of summer works, 2021 Fire and Safety works	€38,596 €858,873
Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel	An outdoor space for students for educational and recreational use Development Approval granted for a Special Class Unit – September 2023.	€20,000 Covid Grant
Loreto College, Coleraine	Conversion of a classroom into a new Home Economics room Two new science labs and prep room Approval given for further works	£162,000 £359,000 DE Funded



School	Development	Funding
Loreto College, Crumlin	Window replacement project completed Fire alarm system Major electrics work	€438,610 €348,580 €299,640 DE Funded
Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey	Major work on hockey pitch and sprint track Lighting, paving and fencing for new hockey pitch New chemistry lab and new toilet facilities New boiler for Home Economics area	€642,768 €164,162 €400,223 €11,063 All school funded
Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy	Currently at stage 2B. Planning submitted and decision due on 29 th March 2023	
Loreto College, Foxrock	Refurbishment of staff and student bathrooms, new blinds, general facilities for staff and students	€50,000 School funded
Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny	Major extension with a suite of general and specialist rooms approved by DE – at stage One. Expected completion date September 2025	€7,345,000 DE Funded
Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny	Approval for two SEN classrooms, one science lab and prep area.	€2,869,000 DE Funded
Loreto College, Mullingar	Approval for new windows	DE funded
Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's Navan.	Development and fit out of a science lab Application with DE for upgrade of two art rooms and the replacement of a flat roof	€47,170
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh	The school continues to be fully involved in the completion of the design concepts and Educational Model for the Strule campus Preliminary work on a fire and safety project Applications for various minor works not approved	DE Funded



Loreto College, St Stephen's Green	Repair to flat roof Preparatory consideration of improvements to the school building in progress	€28,897 School funded
Loreto College, Swords	Major capital project in consultation with the NDFA. Design team to be in place summer 2023 Application for an upgrade of Life Safety Systems Full refurbishment of student toilets	 €48,000 School Funded
PRIMARY SCHOOL		
School	Development	Funding
St Patricks Loreto Primary School, Bray	220 windows replaced Application for two ASD classes	€379,000 DE funded
Loreto Junior Primary School, Crumlin	Final refurbishment of shared area to ASD units Stage One development of new ASD two class extension – ground survey complete	€280,478 DE Funded €18,388 DE Funded
Loreto Senior Primary School, Crumlin	Additional accommodation and furniture and fittings	€311,932 DE Funded
Loreto Primary, Grange Road	Lourdes Unit demolished and ground works for prefabs in place – Move to stage B in the first quarter of 2023 Consultants fee thus far	 €583,887 DE Funded
Loreto Junior School, St Stephen's Green	Replacement windows, drainage works etc	€26,038 School Funded



New lift and access to the building in Loreto College, Cavan



Multi-cultural welcoming sign- Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan

Eddie Fynes
Property Adviser



Loreto Senior Management Conference 2022-2023 Montage



Tuesday 26th to Wednesday 27th April 2022
Johnston House, Co Kildare



LORETO POST PRIMARY CHAIRPERSONS CONFERENCE



WEDNESDAY 5TH AND THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2022
KEADEEN HOTEL, CO KILDARE



Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th November
2022, Farnham Estate, Co Cavan



Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th November
2022, Farnham Estate, Co Cavan



LORETO DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE 2023



Thursday 19th and Friday 20th January 2023
The Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare



Thursday 19th and Friday 20th January 2023
The Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare



PRIMARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd March 2023
The Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare



Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th March 2023
The Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare







Appendices

Response to Annual General Report

On behalf of the Members it is my privilege to respond to the comprehensive and impressive Annual General Report, which was presented to us in preparation for this AGM. Let me begin by quoting from Dermot's superb introduction, where he acknowledges the work of the Loreto Education Centre, whose personnel "continued to offer leadership and support to the whole school network" in extremely difficult times. The work of the Loreto Education Trust impresses the reader of this report and certainly encouraged me and made me proud to be involved in school management. I would like to thank **Dermot and all the Directors** for your ongoing work and oversight of the network of Loreto schools, and to thank you for your generosity, interest and expertise as you guide the work of Loreto Trust.

The Annual Report contains an account of the key areas of support which the schools receive from Loreto Education Centre, detailing the work during the past year, to which I will make a short response. I know this will not do justice to the sterling work of those involved.

Financial management is one of the key responsibilities of the Trust and we thank you for the very clear Annual Accounts. Day to day financial management is one of the many tasks undertaken in the Loreto Centre, and ensuring compliance with the Charities Governance Code entails hours of difficult work. I convey our appreciation to you, **Melissa**, for ensuring compliance in this regard and of course for your high standards in every aspect of your work.

The updating and maintenance of school buildings is of prime importance in the ongoing responsibility of Loreto Education Trust. Such maintenance is frequently a challenge for Principals and Boards of Management. It is a valuable exercise to consult an experienced person for advice and it is obvious from Eddie's Building Officer's report, that school management appreciates his invaluable input into our many projects e.g. tracking the DE approved works, school funded improvements and keeping up-to-date with the processing of the remainder of requests awaiting approval. Today I thank you, **Eddie**, for sharing your expertise and giving assistance to those in need of advice and guidance.

We now move to the report from our Northern Ireland schools. It gives us a clear analysis of the progress, or sometimes lack of it, of the Strule Project. This year it is good to hear that there is an end in sight with a suggested date – even though the political situation there is not encouraging, I know.



I am very interested in the fact that Loreto Grammar School is now admitting 50% of their students via the non-academic selection route. We thank you **Brian** for your ongoing up-to-date analysis and we are indeed grateful for all your hard work and the generous sharing of your valuable knowledge.

It was a joy for me to read about the wonderful work in our schools in the Faith Development area. My few comments here will only touch the edges of the initiatives undertaken in schools by Kathleen as Faith Development Officer. These initiatives have inspired the involvement of both teachers and students. To quote Kathleen's own words, "*the school year has continued to be framed and punctuated by liturgies, school retreats and reflection*". The introduction of Zoom meetings has been a blessing in some respects. During the past two years, we have all been invited to join school communities for Prayer and Reflection to celebrate the different liturgical events and special feasts.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Loreto Grammar School, Omagh on their wonderful musical tribute to Teresa Ball and Loreto 200 and also Loreto Kilkenny on the beautiful Anthem, *SHE*, which was written by two students: Sadhbh and Síofra Ní Chasaide.

The setting up of Ember Ignite Teams (Faith Leadership groups) in schools is an indication of the awareness of the need for change required in today's approach to our religious practice. The commitment of staff and students, which is evident in the time given for training, provided by Kathleen, shows their appreciation of this very worth-while initiative. These teams have contributed greatly to the faith life of our schools and is valuable leadership training for those involved. Their participation in an international project with Australia is a real bonus for all.

The Faith-Development Officer has been engaged in, and facilitated work on many other school activities, e.g. Feile Rangeela, Celebrating Diversity, Mary Ward Week 2022 et al. It is also very noteworthy that Kathleen has generously provided extra resources for all these initiatives.

On behalf of all of us and the school communities, I thank you, **Kathleen**, for your wonderful guidance and assistance to all our school communities, to our chaplains and religious education staff in particular, whom I know greatly value all your efforts on their behalf.

When I began to read the Director of Education & Leadership's report, I quickly got involved in and excited about everything that was happening in the schools - the organisation of the various Conferences and Seminars held for Principals, chairpersons, Deputy Principals, Student Councils, etc. I am aware of the research required to access speakers, the work of planning and making arrangements to ensure smooth running of all events. Feedback has been very positive from the attendees with whom I had contact. Teachers' reaction to the setting-up of the Loreto Guidance Counsellors' Network and appointment of wellbeing co-ordinator made



these initiatives worthwhile. I compliment Caroline on the vision she has shared and leadership she has given. Some of her innovative ideas were taken on and led by teachers and students, others she began herself and guided throughout the year. Valuable topics such as “Celebrating Difference” were also addressed and I was delighted to read that the Loreto Sports Co-Ordinator is back in action. Schools are run for the benefit of the students and when I read the 13 testaments, mostly by Head Girls, at the end of the report, I am assured that our Principals, Deputy Principals and teachers are fulfilling the purpose for which they trained, that is to be role models and mentors of our many students. I acknowledge the excellent report prepared by you, **Caroline**, and thank you for your work which I know is greatly appreciated by all.

I now refer to our school in Rumbek and I thought that the best way to respond to this section was to alert you to a quote from the report itself, and here it is, *“Our schools in Ireland are familiar with the plight of the students in Rumbek. Their outreach to Rumbek is extraordinary. The network of Loreto schools in Ireland continues to collect funds and raise awareness of the injustice to young girls in Rumbek. Huge gratitude is owed to those who continue to keep Rumbek centre stage through school projects, fundraising and being the voice for girls in an unjust society”*. I congratulate and express our gratitude to **Orla** and all the staff on the superb work on behalf of the students and parents, providing them with security, safety and a holistic education.

As I conclude my paper this afternoon, I thank **Eliza** for all her work, done quietly and carefully to ensure that documents, correspondence and reports emanating from the Centre are of a very high standard. It does not go unnoticed, Eliza!

The work of the Education Centre and the Trust Board are immeasurable. I must acknowledge the very important and significant input which **Ann** makes as Director of the Centre. It would be impossible for me, in a few lines, to highlight everything she does. However, on behalf of all the Members I acknowledge her organisational skills, her guidance and continued availability. Ann, we appreciate ways in which you facilitate the introduction of new initiatives and you are always ready to go the extra mile for the school personnel whose needs you serve and you certainly deserve our gratitude.

Finally, we do not need to be reminded of the hardship endured by our staffs, students and parents during the past two years and as I read the Annual General Report and reflected on my response to it, I realised that the work of all involved in the Loreto Education Centre, and the Board of Directors, during this time was nothing short of amazing. I found this quote which puts it succinctly



***“Success is to be measured,
not so much by the position that one has reached in life
as by the obstacles
which have been overcome while trying to succeed”***

Booker T Washington

I now end with the words of our Foundress, Mary Ward – *Do good and do it well* and that is what is clearly reflected in the Annual Report this year. Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

Sr Helen O’Riordan, IBVM



Inter-Loreto Sporting Events 2022/2023

Date	Event:	Hosted By:	Event Winners
October 14th 2022	Sailing Regatta	St. Stephens Green	1st Place - Dalkey 2nd Place - Stephens Green 3rd Place - Balbriggan
November 10th 2022	TY Gaelic Blitz	Foxrock	
November 17th 2022	Swimming Gala	Balbriggan (in NAC)	1st Place - Letterkenny 2nd Place - Kilkenny 3rd Place - Stephens Green Spirit Award - Wexford
November 24th 2022	Olympics	Dalkey	Winners - Dalkey
November 24th 2022	1st Year Regional Gaelic Blitz	Navan	
October 26th 2022	1st Year Hockey Blitz	Dalkey	
Loreto Basketball League - ongoing			Senior A - Senior B - Dalkey Senior C - Dalkey Cadette A - Cadette B - Dalkey
Loreto Hockey League - ongoing			
April 27th 2023	Loreto Athletics	Bray/Dalkey/Swords (in UCD)	
May 4th 2023	Camogie Blitz	Fermoy	
Date TBC	Tennis	Stephens Green (in Lansdown Tennis Club)	



Big Sporting Wins - (April 2022 - present)

Date:	Sport:	School:	Details:
01/4/22	Golf	Dalkey	Senior team 2nd Overall in the Leinster Golf Championship
16/4/22	Gaelic	Omagh	Ulster & All-Ireland Medals awarded to the U16 Gaelic Team
25/4/22	Golf	Navan	Winners of Irish Girls Senior Schools National Finals at Milltown GC
27/4/22	Basketball	Dalkey	Minor A team 3rd in Ireland
04/5/22	Basketball	Cavan	All-Ireland Champions
20/9/22	Basketball	Dalkey	Senior A Basketball playing in the World Championships in Serbia
06/10/22	Camogie	Fermoy	Munster 7s Champions
11/10/22	Golf	Fermoy	Junior Girls 2nd Place at Irish Schools Golf event (Munster division)
14/10/22	Golf	Beaufort	Senior team won the Leinster Schools Competition
09/11/22	Cross Country	Stephens Green	2nd Year team won Blackrock Cross Country Relay
17/11/22	Show jumping	Wexford	3rd & 4th place in the Inter-schools Show Jumping competition in Wexford
04/12/22	Cross Country	Clonmel	6th Year student won silver in All-Ireland XC
10/01/23	Basketball	Milford	U19 Girls won North West Basketball Finals in Letterkenny
17/01/23	Badminton	Bray	U19 Team won the Dublin Schools Final
21/01/23	Camogie	Kilkenny	Junior Leinster Final winners
21/01/23	Hockey	Bray	1st Year A came 2nd in Leinster League Final



24/01/23	Gaelic	Navan	Senior Leinster Champs
25/01/23	Cross Country	Wexford	Intermediate XC team won gold at South Leinster Finals
25/01/23	Gaelic	Cavan	Senior Girls winners of Ulster A Final
25/01/23	Cross Country	Stephens Green	Junior XC team won the Junior A East Leinsters The Senior team came 3rd.
07/02/23	Swimming	Dalkey	Emily O'Dwyer - 2nd place overall in the Leinster Schools Swimming Gala
2022	Gaelic Football	Omagh	All Ireland U16 Champions
2022	Gaelic Football	Cavan	All Ireland U16 and Senior Cup Champions
2022	Basketball	Letterkenny	All Ireland U19 Champions
2023	Camogie	Kilkenny	All Ireland Senior Champions
2023	Gaelic Football	Clonmel	Munster Senior Champions
2023	Gaelic Football	Navan	Leinster Senior Champions
2023	Gaelic Football	Cavan	Ulster Senior Champions
2023	Camogie	Fermoy	Munster Junior Champions



A Glimpse into the Schools

Schools of Sanctuary Ireland

Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey, Co Wexford

SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY IRELAND PRESENTS ITS FIRST EVER
NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY FOR SCHOOLS

MINISTER RODERIC O'GORMAN WILL PRESENT TO THE
13 "CHAMPION" SCHOOLS FROM AROUND IRELAND

On **Friday February 3rd, 2023, 12:30-1:30pm**, [Schools of Sanctuary Ireland](#) will gather 13 schools from all around Ireland for a special ceremony in **Technological University Dublin, Grangegorman**, where the schools will officially receive their "*Champion School of Sanctuary*" award. The schools will be presented with the awards by the **Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman**. The **Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy** will also be part of the presentation ceremony.



The schools that will receive the award on the day include 7 primary schools:

Blarney St CBS **Cork**, Bunscoil Loreto **Gorey**, Bunscoil McAuley Rice **Kilkenny**, Kilrane National School **Rosslare**, Scoil Bhríde Shantalla **Galway**, St John the Baptist BNS **Limerick**, St Mary's National School **Limerick**.

6 post-primary schools will also receive the same award: Creagh College **Gorey**, Desmond College **Newcastle West**, Largy College **Clones**, Mount Sion CBS **Waterford**, North Presentation Secondary School **Cork**, and Stepside Educate Together Secondary, **Dublin**.

Approximately 140 young people, aged from 6 up to 18 years, will attend this very special ceremony, which will also include guest speaker, the broadcaster/writer, **Ola Majekodunmi**.

Founded in 2019, Schools of Sanctuary Ireland is a **holistic whole- school programme** for all schools in Ireland. The awarding of the Champion status is an official recognition and attests to how these schools have worked to symbolise and realise an inclusive, welcoming and safe



space for all pupils and their families, especially newcomers who come from refugee and migrant communities and other ethnic minorities, including the Traveller community.

As well as celebrating diversity in all its forms, through activities and events in the school and the local community all of the schools have built knowledge and understanding among the students and the staff about forced migration due to violence, persecution, famine and other threats to life and freedom. Many schools also boast exceptionally strong language support programmes for students whose first language is not English.

In a **current climate of anti-migrant activity and unrest**, the granting of this official status to these 13 schools is timely. These schools have made a commitment to ensuring their school remains a beacon of inclusion and equality and in so doing, the students from these schools are learning facts, not fiction, about refugees and asylum-seekers and why and how they come to Ireland.

The awards ceremony will take place in the **TU Dublin East Quad**, the home of TU Dublin Conservatoire, in the state-of-the-art **400 seater Concert Hall**. A space typically used for music and drama performances, it will be an inspiring venue and location for school students and staff.





BT Young Scientist Success

For the fourth time, Loreto Balbriggan has been placed in the top four finalists in the finals of the BT Young Scientist and Technology competition in the RDS. Congratulations to Abigail O'Brien Murray, Olivia O'Shea and Erica O'Brien who were overall group runners-up in the competition. Their win adds to the school's incredible success in the competition over the years. Their project 'Can we save the Common Ash' attracted much attention, even from President Michael D. Higgins who was impressed by the girls' thorough research and commitment to their project. Their project investigated the effect that plant hormones have on the fungal disease, "Ash dieback", which affects Ash trees in Ireland, and is a significant burden on the Irish Ash tree industry, most notably in the manufacture of hurleys. The project also won the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine award.



Congratulations to Ruth Cooper and Sarah Barlow whose project came second in the social and behavioural intermediate group. Sarah and Ruth researched the effect that age has on conformity in a classroom setting when students are asked a question. They found that younger students conformed more than older students and that students' confidence in their answers to questions was also reduced if they conformed with the group's answer, rather than going with their own instincts. They were awarded 2nd place in the Social and Behavioural Sciences Intermediate Group Category, which is a huge achievement, considering that it is a highly competitive category, and they were competing against 99 other projects.



Loreto High School, Beaufort

Loreto Schools' outstanding achievements at the BT Young Scientist & Technology **Exhibition 2023**

1,700 projects entered the national competition and 550 qualified for the exhibition.

Of these finalists 26 were from Loreto schools. This is 4.7% of the total exhibiting projects.

Loreto Secondary school Kilkenny had 12 Entries, the highest number in Kilkenny and the third highest entry number of any school nationally.

Loreto High school Beaufort had the second highest number of entrants for Dublin (7) and Loreto College St. Stephens Green had the third highest number (6).



The Dublin Loreto schools made up 15 out of the 92 Dublin entries which is a phenomenal 16.3%.

Entries from Loreto Schools Nationally.

Loreto College Cavan – 1 project

Loreto Secondary School Fermoy- 2 Projects

Loreto Community School, Milford – 1 Project

Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green – 6 Project

Loreto High School Beaufort- 7 Projects

Loreto Secondary school Balbriggan- 2 Projects

Loreto Secondary school Kilkenny -12- Projects

Loreto College Mullingar- 1 Project

The standard and quality of the research carried out and communicated by the Loreto students at the exhibition was to an exceptionally high standard. This is a reflection of the scientific skills



and work ethic of the students, the parental support, the dedication and commitment of their teachers and the emphasis placed by management, the Loreto education office and the entire Loreto community on STEM.

Whilst the benefits of carrying out the research, communicating it to both the public and the judges are more important the awards. It is worth while noting the level and number of significant awards achieved by the Loreto schools, as this reflects the quantity and quality of the research carried out and the skill in which the students defended and communicated their findings.

Main Awards.



Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan Students Olivia O'Shea, Erica O'Brien Murray, Abigail O'Brien Murray Dublin were placed in the top four of the entire competition and received the Runner up Group award for their project entitled Can we save the Common Ash?

This is a well-deserved award for the students and their school. These Young scientists have entered and flourished in National STEM competitions throughout their years in Loreto Balbriggan, guided and supported by their teachers. They possess excellent inquiry skills and research capabilities.

Loreto Balbriggan has had four projects in the top 4 of the BTYSE in the last 10 years.

Gold Partners awards. (There are 4 students' awards)

The RTE Social & Behavioural Award was presented to Maria Lenny of Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green for her project entitled ; Dublin an Investigation into Effect of Ball Target Practice on Memory Function among Primary School-Aged Children.



Special Awards.

Award: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Category: Biological & Ecological

School: Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan.

Title: Can we save the Common Ash?

Students: Olivia O'Shea, Erica O'Brien Murray, Abigail O'Brien Murray

Award: Irish Research Council

Category: Social & Behavioural Sciences

School: Loreto High School, Beaufort

Title: Flow Forecast

Students: Sophie Brennan, Ava Clare

Award: Health Research Board

Category: Social & Behavioural Sciences Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy

Title: Vaping Under The Influence: An investigation into the impact of social media on Student:
Leah Nolan

Category Awards: There are a total of 36 category awards. Loreto schools received 6 of these.
16.6% of the Category prizes.

Category: Biological & Ecological

Senior

1st in Group: 1 Juliette Kelleher, Aoife Lynn, Honor Lynch, The Einstein of Enzymes: A Battle
Against Plastic Pollution, Loreto College St, Stephen's Green

Category: Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences



Junior

3rd in Group Darcy Mc Granaghan, Rose Gaffey, Ava Molloy, Quantitative Water Analysis of Mulroy Bay to Measure the Efficacy of a New Sewage System, Loreto Community School, Milford.

Category: Social & Behavioural Sciences

Junior Individual: 1st Place Maria Lenny, An Investigation into the Effect of Ball Target Practice on Memory Function among Primary School-Aged Children, Loreto College, St. Stephens Green

Intermediate Individual.

1st Place; Leah Nola, Vaping under the Influence: An investigation into the impact of social media on adolescent attitudes towards vaping Loreto Secondary School Fermoy.

Intermediate Group. There were 100 projects in this group. Loreto School received the second and third prize.

2nd Place: Ruth Cooper, Sarah Barlow, Does the average age of a group of students affect how likely they are to be influenced by the imposed pressure of the participating group, Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan.

3rd place: Sophie Brennan, Ava Clare, Flow Forecast, Loreto High School, Beaufort.

Highly Commended

Highly Commended Award Technology

School: Loreto High School, Beaufort

Title: Mats That Matter!!

Students: Evanne Lyons, Isabelle Kealy

Loreto College, Swords: Grandparents' Gathering

Over eighty grandparents of first year students were welcomed to Loreto Swords on 24th January to celebrate Catholic Schools Week

The afternoon began with a short prayer service on this year's theme chosen for Grandparents' Day,

Walking together to celebrate our faith



A grandparent of first year twins presented a lighted candle to his granddaughters to symbolise this special faith relationship. This was followed by a short reading from Scripture, prayers of intercession and a reflection.

Mr Macnamara spoke of the important role grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. He said that Loreto welcomed the opportunity to celebrate grandparents and grandchildren as God's gift to each other. And he went on to quote Pope Francis 'we can only move forward when we respect the wisdom of the elderly and also recognise the contribution of our youth'. Pope Francis explains that parents and grandparents stand with their feet parallel while our young people stand with one foot forward ready to set out and spring ahead – an image captured in the picture of Mary Ward, the founder of Loreto.

The afternoon continued with music, song, dance and poetry recitations while the visitors were served afternoon tea prepared by the catering group and volunteer teachers and students.

In preparation for this gathering the participating students interviewed their grandparents about their schooldays and wrote accounts of what life was like for young people growing up in the Ireland of fifty, sixty, seventy years ago. Extracts from these accounts were read out by fifth year students. The memories and experiences of a wide range of people from Kerry to Donegal, Waterford, Monaghan and Scotland had been documented and made very interesting reading.

Before the students took their grandparents on a tour of the school the celebrations in the hall ended with a sing-song with all present joining in the 'Fields of Athenry' and 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling'.

Those who had travelled from Kerry, Donegal and Glasgow and also the Dublin Grandparents all agreed that it was a very special experience to spend an afternoon in Loreto College, Swords.





Loreto Secondary School, St Michael's, Navan

The school won the All-Ireland Schools senior golf competition in April 2022. The team consisted of Niamh Carroll and Chloe Maples Gaffney. The same girls also have won the South Leinster senior schools competition in October 2022 which qualifies them for the All-Ireland finals this April in Miltown to defend their title.

The school also won the Leinster A Senior Football title in January with the All-Ireland semi-final is to be played in 2 weeks later.



Huge congratulations to our senior gaelic football team who had a great win today over Scoil Mhuire Trim in the Senior A Leinster final.

The game finished 6-4 to 2-7.

There were fantastic performances all over the field and a massive work rate shown throughout led brilliantly by captain Lilly Dwyer. A huge thank you to all our supporters who really drove the team on and their support is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Ms Plunkett and Mr. Newman for training the team. The team can now look forward to an All Ireland Semi Final.





Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green

Grace Keaveny 4B won two awards at the Young Economist of the Year - Central Bank Award and the overall senior Young Economist Award.

Anna Holloway 5th year, won overall prize in the TU Dublin Regional Scifest@College and the Accenture Maths in Science award at the same competitions.

Amelia Trenaman won the TU Dublin Commendation Award at Scifest for her project titled "If we taught Health Education differently, would it promote positive eating habits and body image?"

Amelia was invited by the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science to take part and present her BTYSE project at the University of Limerick on May 19th, where she was awarded with best presentation on the day.

Juliette Kelleher, Honor Lynch and Aoife Lynn won the Smurfit Kappa Sustainability Award and were also the overall runners up for the SciFest@College 2022 with their project "The Einstein of enzymes: A battle against plastic pollution."



Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny

Ethos Leaders' Visit to Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey

Loreto Kilkenny and Loreto Dalkey decided it was important for the two schools to connect in regards to our schools' ethos this year. Visiting Loreto Dalkey was a great opportunity for our students to learn about Ember and to develop a better understanding of their role as Ethos leaders in our own school. The Ember Programme is a faith leadership training programme for students at senior level in secondary schools. The students are trained to become faith leaders in their schools and in some cases they act as mentors for incoming students at Junior Level. This programme is coordinated by the Archdiocese of Dublin Education Secretariat. The girls from Loreto Dalkey that are involved in this programme were able to provide our students with invaluable insight as they establish a similar role here in Loreto Kilkenny.

Loreto Dalkey were excellent hosts. On arrival, we got to know each other while enjoying tea and scones. Their Principal, Robert Dunne, welcomed us, met the members of our group and gave us a tour of the school. The highlight of the tour was our visit to the chapel in the heart of the school. As an avid historian, he shared his knowledge with us on the life of Frances Teresa



Ball and the history of Loreto education in Ireland. We got to meet some of the nuns who shared their experience of living in the convent at Loreto Dalkey and told us great stories about how they spent their summers swimming in the sea. They were really welcoming as they showed us around the convent. Following this, the students broke into smaller groups and continued with their tour of the school. We reconvened in the school's new prayer garden dedicated to Frances Teresa Ball. The serenity garden overlooks the sea and is a beautiful place to take some time out during the day.

We moved to the lecture hall where students from both school Ethos groups made presentations. They shared their experiences of the leadership role within their schools. They also discussed their ideas for future events. The students had conversations about the different ways in which they could promote the ethos in their prospective schools. The girls reiterated that the charisms of Mary Ward; justice, freedom, sincerity, truth and joy are central to the spirituality of a Loreto school and that these values are as pertinent for our time as they were for hers. It was great to see the girls take part in this collaborative aspect of the day.

Student Reflection on the Visit

"My experience at Loreto Dalkey was very positive. I learnt a lot about the history of Loreto in Ireland and Francis Teresa Ball. We also got to meet the ethos prefects of their school and had a great tour of their school." – Amy Cahill 2D

"I really enjoyed visiting Loreto Dalkey with all of the Ethos Leaders. We met all the lovely students and their Principal. Their school had an amazing view of the sea and we were taken on a really nice tour of the school. The Dalkey Ethos Leaders were really welcoming and I really enjoyed making friends with them. It was a long journey up and back but I think it was definitely worthwhile." – Amy Walton 4D

"I greatly enjoyed our visit to Loreto Dalkey and all the beautiful sights and history that it had to offer. It was very beneficial for our team to gain knowledge about the roots of the Loreto Community and experience how the ethos of all Loreto schools comes from the values of Mary Ward and Frances Teresa Ball." – Prantika Jalali 6E





Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny

First Year Medieval Banquet

The Medieval Banquet is an annual event, hosted by the history department in our school for first year students. The Medieval time studies is part of the first year students syllabus; it tends to be very rich and very heavy for the students to take it all in. Our history department came up with the medieval banquet idea to bring history to life and help the students learn all about the medieval time in a very fun and practical way.

All of the students and their teachers got involved by dressing up, bringing food from that era, and also participated in a few dances.





Feis na Gaeilge 2023- Meánscoil Loreto Leitir Ceanainn

‘Beatha Teanga í á Labhairt’- A Language survives by speaking it



On Friday February 24th, the halls and corridors of Loreto Letterkenny echoed the sounds of 600 primary school children taking part in our successful ‘Feis na Gaeilge. This Transition Year Irish Language Community Project is in its 3rd year of running, and is growing and developing with every year. The Transition Year students identified that there was a growing desire and passion towards the language in our local area, but not many opportunities to practice the language in Letterkenny. Through surveying our own students, we identified that outside of the classroom itself, very few students had the opportunity to speak Irish. We decided we would organize an Irish Language Feis in our school to provide this opportunity and facility for our local primary schools.

Science news

Loreto Letterkenny made history by becoming the first all female team to win the national final of the ISTA senior science quiz. The team of Aimee Bonar, Lakshmi Shaji and Kirsten Orhue Obanor were also the second highest scoring team of all time.

Following on from her achievement of winning the chemistry section at the IrEOES and winning a bronze medal on the Irish team at the European final of the Olympiad of Experimental Science last summer, Aimee Bonar has successfully navigated her way through to the next round of the Chemistry Olympiad this year. Kirsten Orhue Obanor has also made it through Round 1a of the highly prestigious competition, the Chemistry Olympiad Ireland (ChOIRL). Only the top chemistry students in the country have been selected to compete in the Round 1b written exam on Saturday the 4th of March.

The award ceremony for the Chemistry Olympiad Ireland National Awards took place virtually on the 11th of March.



Loreto Sports news

Loreto Letterkenny's intermediate girls team of Anna Russell, Emma Bonar, Sarah Henry, Sophie Ellis, Sophia Ward and Lucy Toner as well as senior girl Sarah Bradley have qualified for the All Ireland schools cross country championships in Waterford on the 11th of March.





Loreto Education Partners

Irish Funds Initiative

In 2022, Irish Funds developed a unique Pilot Transition Year Financial Literacy Programme for delivery in schools in 2023. Irish Funds is the voice of the funds and asset management industry in Ireland, with over 18,000 people directly employed across a wide range of funds administration, asset management, audit, legal, technology, software development, cyber security and consulting firms across Ireland. Community engagement is one of the values at Irish Funds. The industry is committed to supporting financial education initiatives and providing access to easily understood financial advice that empowers individuals to make more informed choices about their future financial well-being. Four Loreto Schools signed up for the Pilot programme in 2023; Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, Loreto College, Foxrock, Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny and Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel. We kicked off the Pilot in Loreto Balbriggan on 16 January 2023 and will complete the Pilot in Loreto Foxrock in April 2023. Over 100 Loreto students are benefitting from the free programme, that combines (i) Financial Literacy competences (ii) key Life Skills with (iii) real life industry examples. The Financial Literacy aspect of the programme broadly maps the key elements of the Joint EU/OECD-INFE Financial Competence Framework for Adults, adapted for TY students (Money and Transactions, Planning and Managing Finances, Risk and Reward and Financial Landscape). The Programme is brought to life using real examples presented in the class by Eibhlin Johnston, as facilitator of the Pilot. Eibhlin is the Managing Director of the Resiliency Hub. The Resiliency Hub provides Executive Coaching and Leadership Training to clients across a range of industries. With over 30 years' experience in the Financial Services, Eibhlin was well placed to design the programme and act as Lead Facilitator. Each School has also been assigned a Lead Facilitator from a prominent financial services company in Ireland. PWC, Dechert, State Street and Waystone have all supported and assisted in the delivery of the Pilot. The feedback to date has been very positive. We continue to update the Pilot to reflect the feedback. We will be enrolling schools for the TY Programme for 2023/24.

Eibhlin Johnson
The Resiliency Hub





Genesis Research Report

A national representative survey of 500 parents of school-going children, both primary and secondary, was conducted in April 2019 by Genesis, an independent survey company, to measure public attitudes towards schools of a Catholic ethos.

At a time when over 90% of primary schools are Catholic, the survey shows a high level of satisfaction among parents of primary school- going children with the quality of education being delivered. The data found that 78 per cent of parents were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the school their child was attending.

It also found that there is overwhelming support among parents (also 78 per cent) for the Catholic Church to have a role in continuing to shape and influence the ethos of the school.

The research shows that ‘Catholic’ for Irish people is now more about the development of a moral compass, having an awareness of social justice, social inclusion, and having care for self and for others rather than the old reliance on religious practice, sacraments and tradition. It is also clear that the advantages a Catholic ethos can bring to a school are ‘foundational’ and ‘developmental’ in terms of morality and ethics – building a ‘whole’ person of empathetic and charitable conscience, something that may not be achieved if left wholly in the hands of the state.

While parents have the ultimate responsibility for helping their children address challenges, they also give schools a very clear mandate for social and moral development, and for navigating the complexity of childhood. They are doing this in the understanding that their school holds a Catholic ethos. Here, teachers are a key touchpoint as they navigate the area between faith formation and moral and social conscience development.

In conclusion, the Church, and Catholicism, on its ‘best day’ represents a focus point of hope, community, care, charity, respect, and ultimately a sense of greater purpose that builds resilience and leads to a more fulfilling life. Parents recognise the importance of instilling this purpose, and a greater sense of ‘why’ for their children.

Paul Meaney Chairperson
Association of Patrons & Trustees of Catholic Schools



Loreto Education Trust

Loreto Education Trust

COMPANY MEMBERS

Barbara Murphy IBVM

Jane Bailey IBVM

Anne O'Dwyer IBVM

Helen O'Riordan IBVM

Elaine Troy IBVM

Brigid Tunney IBVM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Loreto Education Trust Board)

Billy O'Shea (Appointed January 2023)

Conor Bowman (Retired April 2023)

Martin Boyd

Elizabeth Cotter IBVM (Appointed January 2023)

Jennifer Edwards

Ruth Ferris (Appointed January 2023)

Maria Hyland IBVM (Retired January 2023)

Brian Lenehan

Dermot McCarthy (retired)

Sheila McManamly

Phil Murphy IBVM (Retired January 2023)

Brede Quirke IBVM

Bernadette Ryan

Eileen Salmon



OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE LORETO EDUCATION CENTRE

Caroline Clarke – Director of Education and Leadership

Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM – Faith Development Co-ordinator

Edward Fynes – Schools Property Advisor

Melissa Steele – Office Manager & Finance Officer

Eliza Connolly – Administrator and Events Coordinator



Membership of Boards of Management

Schools	Teacher Nominees 2022-2025	Parent Nominees 2022-2025	Trustee Nominees 2022-2025
Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan	Paula Grace Barbara O'Neill	Lisa Kelly Tiberious Pereira	Veronica McDermott (Chair) Marése Bell Eddie Fynes Sheila Murray
Loreto College, St Stephen's Green	Katie KinKaid James Mulligan	Anne Brady Hurley Fintan Clancy	Dr P J Sexton (Chair) Deirdre Ann Barr Catherine- Anne Dooley Carol Keating
Loreto Secondary School, Wexford	Aoife Doyle Laura Pheasey	Edel Cullen Eleanor Harpur	Iris Johnston (Chair) Barbara Foley Daniel Gayer Liam Gaynor

Clonmel: Oonagh Duffy instead of Helen Brigdale (Parent Nominee)

Crumlin: John Mulreid instead of Thomas O'Connor (Parent Nominee)

Foxrock: David Garland instead of Siobhan Byron Smith (Teacher Nominee)

Kilkenny: Niamh O'Sullivan instead of Alison McCarthy (Teacher Nominee)

Sean Ryan Instead of Michael Shields (Parent Nominee)

Navan: Glenda Finneran instead of Mary Fox (Parent Nominee)

Omagh: Anne Marie Broderick appointed as Department of Education Northern Ireland Representative (to vacant position)



Community Schools Boards of Management 2022-2025

Schools	Portmarnock Community School	Gorey Community School	Pobalscoil na Trionoide
Religious Trustee Nominees	Michael Behan Siobhan Murray Eoghan O'Flaherty	John Fennell Eimear Mooney Ann O'Neill	Pat Barry Marion Daly Elma Hayes
ETB Nominees	Susan Duffy Anthony Lavin Gerry Maguire	Kathleen Codd Nolan Fionntan O Suilleabhain. Pat Rath	Denis Leamy Bertie Óg Murphy Tim O'Callaghan
Teacher Nominees	Mary Maguire Ashling Ward	Kate Moran Maurice O'Toole	Emer Dunne Catherine Ní Dhomnall
Parent Nominees	Bryan Flanagan Deirdre O'Neill	Owen Martin Jane Montague Peters	John Geaney Louise Phelan



Loreto Schools Student Numbers

(1st January 2023)

POST-PRIMARY	STUDENTS
Balbriggan	1,252
Beaufort	636
Bray	702
Cavan	700
Clonmel	517
Coleraine	974
Crumlin Road	381
Dalkey	730
Fermoy	700
Foxrock	569
Kilkenny	1,028
Letterkenny	962
Mullingar	857
Navan	863
Omagh	898
53 St Stephen's Green	568
Swords	641
Wexford	906
PRIMARY	



Bray	744
Crumlin (Junior)	196
Dalkey	306
Grange Road	481
Loreto College, Junior School	205
Schools with historical links with Loreto:	
Crumlin Senior Primary	221
Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey	655
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal, Letterkenny	446
St Anne's, Navan	301
COMMUNITY	
St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield	434
Gorey Community School	1,607
Loreto Community School, Milford	818
Portmarnock Community School	942
Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Youghal	1,086

Total Number of Students (1 Jan 2023): 22,326

Acknowledgement

Thank you to Eliza Connolly who, with a patient smile, diligently curates this Annual Report and competently brings together the many aspects into one cohesive report.

Her commitment, excellent skill, and hard work in digitally bringing all aspects of the report together is greatly appreciated.

