



LORETO ANNUAL REPORT

LORETO EDUCATION TRUST



2024



"All that is not in Him and for Him will pass away with time"
Mary Ward





Front Cover:

St Anne's Loreto Primary Navan
Celebrating 170 years 2023

Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny

Loreto Primary School, Grange Road Rathfarnham
Celebrating 200 years 2023

Loreto Rumbek, South Sudan



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Welcome to the Annual Report 2024

I welcome all members of the Loreto family to a changed version of the usual annual report from the Trust Board. This part of the report contains a summary of the work of the Board over the past twelve months. It will be followed in late May/early June by an account of the many happenings and activities in Loreto schools in the course of the 2023/2024 academic year. Taken together, these reports will show just how busy, productive and inspiring the past year has been across the 32 schools that belong to the Loreto network.

By way of summarising the past twelve months in relation to the Trust Board, I reflect on a number of key events.

The biggest development, without doubt, was the decision taken by the Loreto Sisters last December, to continue its educational mission into the future as a stand-alone Trust Board. This decision, widely welcomed by stakeholders, was taken after a period of careful reflection, extensive consultation and the engagement of PwC Consultants to provide expert advice on all aspects of available options. As Chairperson of the Trust Board, I witnessed at close quarters, the genuine desire of the Sisters' leadership team to listen to all viewpoints and to engage meaningfully with stakeholders prior to making their final decision. I commend them highly on this truly collaborative and respectful approach.

This decision has already led to action. PwC Consultants, as well as Ken Johnson as Project Manager and Independent Adviser, have been engaged by the Trust Board and the Sisters to provide all necessary professional advice in relation to implementing a new constitution for the Trust Board and to providing a separate structure for the management of Loreto property into the future. The Trust Board and the Sisters will continue to keep the Loreto family informed of developments in these areas in the year ahead.

Future developments, however, will reflect the stark demographic situation facing the Loreto Sisters. Whilst two Sisters continue to serve in schools as chaplains, from the start of the next academic year there will be no Loreto Sister employed as a Principal, Deputy Principal or teacher in any Irish school. Planning for the new Trust Board and property management structure will place a heavy reliance on the appointment of lay people as both Members and Directors. It will be a fitting and enduring tribute to the Sisters that many lay people will, I



believe, rise to this challenge so that the mission and legacy of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball will be carried to future generations.

The provision of a high quality service and support system remained a hallmark of the Education Centre over the past twelve months. Along the way, however, we were saddened by the departures of both Melissa Steele (October 2023) and Caroline Clarke (December 2023) to take up new positions elsewhere. During their years in the Education Centre they gave great service to both the Trust Board and the network of schools. I wish them well for the future. Their replacements, Zhuwau Nota (December 2023) and Sr Noelle Corscadden IBVM (January 2024), have already fitted in very well to their new roles and have greatly enjoyed meeting many members of the Loreto school communities in recent months. The Trust Board is also most appreciative of the ongoing work and great commitment of Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM, Eliza Connolly and Eddie Fynes, in their respective and important roles.

Given the very busy nature of the past year, I feel that I must pay particular tribute to my fellow Directors on the Trust Board. As well as attending regular in-person meetings in Foxrock, they have also been available to join the numerous Zoom meetings of Directors that were required at different stages. Their open, honest and constructive contributions at, and between, meetings helped to ensure that the Board consistently fulfilled its responsibilities in relation to trusteeship, governance and as an employer. Having given twelve years of dedicated service to the Board, Brian Lenehan retired as a Director at our March meeting. His depth of knowledge and vast experience, especially in relation to the Northern Ireland schools, will be sorely missed. However, his replacement on the Board, Gráinne O' Hanlon, is equally steeped in the Loreto tradition and will bring a great deal of expertise to her new role. I wish her and all other Directors well for the busy year that lies ahead.

Important as the Trust Board is, its Directors and I are keen to recognise that the most crucial work of all is done on a daily basis in the network of 32 schools that come under the Loreto flag. We receive regular updates on the outstanding work being done by in-school management, teaching and non-teaching staff and Boards of Management/Governors in all schools. Working in close co-operation with so many receptive, co-operative, creative and caring students, they help to ensure that Loreto schools give daily and meaningful expression to our core values of truth, freedom, justice, sincerity and joy. We all look forward to seeing this expressed in the second part of this annual report in late May/early June.



I conclude by stating my strong belief that Loreto is in a very good place at this point in time. Its values are particularly relevant in this deeply-troubled world. These values are real and tangible in its schools. Its direction of travel into the future has been decided. With a renewed sense of collegiality and common purpose, let us together write the next chapter in Loreto's proud story.

Billy O'Shea
Chairperson
Loreto Education Trust Board



Response to Loreto Trust Annual Report 2023

Many thanks to all involved in drafting this most informative report. It did strike me that if outsiders read it, they would definitely be impressed with so many innovative and relevant groups working in various areas of expertise – thanks to the Trust and Education Centre staff for their valuable work.

I want to highlight some aspects of the report for special mention. The key word that comes to mind is “collaboration” and I was very pleased to note, throughout the document, so much involvement with other outside groups e.g.

- Association of Patrons & Trustees of Catholic Schools with Caroline, Kathleen and Sheila on different sub-committees.
- Involvement with Dublin Diocese and Dublin Diocesan Ember Team.
- Online Prayer with schools from Loreto, Dublin Diocese, Ceist and Le Chéile Trusts.

In spite of the many problems impacting on some students at home and in society, the school environment is often a refuge, created by management and staff, who not only do a wonderful job in the classroom but also give much needed pastoral care to our students. Pastoral initiatives and extra-curricular activities, evident in our schools are testament to the care and individual attention given to students.

The number of building projects planned and are ongoing is mind boggling and credit is due to Eddie, for liaising with both schools and DES, while making every effort to expedite the plans at each stage – no easy task, I know. Thank you Eddie.

Each year, we are informed by Brian of progress, or lack of it, in Northern Ireland schools and once again we hear of a further delay with the Omagh project. It is so disheartening for the school community, when key deadlines frequently change. The latest news of Coleraine’s inclusion in the School Enhancement Programme is positive, even though the time frame is not definite. Brian, you are fully aware of difficulties at school and Board of Governor levels. We are greatly indebted to you for your clear updates and your assistance to all concerned in these two schools.



I wish to acknowledge the reports from each school detailing their successes within and outside of school hours during the past year. I thank the staff members who have led these activities. I realise all the work and energy required in organising, planning and achieving such standards of excellence – e.g. in sports, music, debating to name but a few. Gratitude and congratulations are extended to all involved.

It is obvious from reading the report that the work done by the staff in the Education Centre is extensive and varied. It is not possible for me in this short paper to comment on all that is included but I do want to thank each of you for your valuable contribution to the work in Loreto Schools, all of which is greatly appreciated.

The person first encountered in the Centre is Melissa. She is always polite, welcoming and professional. Her correspondence and especially documentation and advice on procedures for the setting up of interviews for Principal and Deputy Principal are thorough and professional. For this, and the multitude of daily tasks, including finance, I thank her sincerely.

I have seen Eliza in action at conferences and I know that her contribution to the work of the office is invaluable and this document is an example of her excellent IT skills - we are most grateful to her.

It is a real delight to read about the progress of Rumbek Primary School and hopefully many of these students will progress to Second level, which in itself is a gateway to Third level training, and, in time, they will contribute to the welfare of South Sudan.

Throughout the year the chaplains, RE teachers and others receive beautiful reflections for key feasts of the church's year. Loreto has joined with other schools in planning and leading short liturgies on Zoom at lunch hour – this is only one of the many different innovations introduced by Kathleen. A quotation using her own words gives a good summary of the magnificent work she does with both staff and students in our schools,

“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”

That surely is a wonderful ministry to the staff and students of our schools for which we thank her sincerely.



The many and varied conferences have brought different staff groups and students together and I am confident that they have been a great experience for the participants. Of course, I am very aware of the preparatory work required to ensure their success for which Caroline, Kathleen, Melissa and Eliza are responsible in varying degrees.

During the past fifteen months there have been twenty appointments to Principal/Deputy Principal roles in our schools – this includes Community Schools. I am fully aware of the trojan efforts made by Caroline to set up interview panels, act as an interviewer, and ensure procedures followed are in accordance with DES guidelines. Which is definitely a time consuming, tiring and responsible task. As the recipient of this assistance, I want to acknowledge her invaluable help to both Boards and school Management.

We see from the report that Caroline also spends time visiting schools and this is greatly appreciated and it is valuable exercise for her and all concerned. Caroline, I thank you for your hard work and leadership as you endeavour to respond to the daily needs of our schools.

The fact that Sr Barbara Murphy's, Province Leader, most recent letter received by all of us, including our schools, has given an update on the progress of communicating the current position of the future of the Trust, I do not need to refer to the matter today.

At the last AGM Sr Ann O'Donoghue, Director, was present and I wish to thank her sincerely for her work, and dedication during her 4 years which is greatly appreciated. Two other directors Maria and Phil, left this Board also and I am very pleased that we will have the opportunity to acknowledge their contributions this evening.

The day- to- day work of the Centre is facilitated by the staff, guided by the Trust Board, a group of people whose commitment to the work of Loreto Education in our schools is second to none. On behalf of the members I thank you sincerely for your interest, leadership and promotion of the Loreto Ethos. It is only when the Board Members, staff in the office and the Loreto members work together with the same aim for the benefit of our schools, that we achieve our goals and high standards. We have been so blessed to have had a Chairperson of the calibre of Dermot and now Billy, both of whom have extraordinary leadership qualities. I am delighted that the former's contribution will be acknowledged on another occasion. We are indeed grateful to Billy for accepting our invitation to take on the role, which I know he will fulfil in his own professional and expert way.



Finally, I found a short poem composed by a teacher from Loreto, Clonmel who was inspired to write the following verses on seeing a pot of budding narcissi in the Sacred Space under a picture of Mary Ward in the school.

Nurturing by Mary O’Gorman

Framed near a classroom door
the benign eyes of Mary Ward
gaze at narcissi bulbs
in ceramic pots in the hall
where shoots push their way up
out of that compost womb,
straining to reach air and light-
to grow, to strengthen, to bloom.

and when, at last, they emerge,
some are strong, others frail,
all are nurtured, watered, nourished
so that eventually they’ll

be moved outside the school door:
glorious flowers of white and gold,
made independent by the care,
ready for wild winds, fierce sun, cold.

To conclude I leave you with this thought *“Educators nurture young people by care and love and prepare them to thrive in a future, as yet unknown”* and this is exactly the essence of the Loreto Trust Annual General Report.

Sr Helen O’Riordan, IBVM



Director of Education and Leadership Report

Preamble

The Loreto Education Trust Annual report this year will confine itself to the requirements of company and charity legislation. It is planned, however, that a separate 'Annual' will be produced at the end of the academic year to shine a light on the various activities in our schools around the country.

The current Director of Education and Leadership was appointed in January 2024 and this report will also reflect the work of the outgoing Director Caroline Clarke from March to December 2023. The various Selection Procedures for the appointment of Principals and Deputy Principals was organised by Caroline. Those appointed by the relevant Boards of Management are listed in the appendices. Teacher induction took place in September 2023 and Leadership conferences took place in October and Student Council meetings in November.

Conferences

On taking up the role in January, Sr Noelle Corscadden followed the plan as set out in the calendar for the academic year.

Three leadership conferences were held in the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge, for Post Primary Deputy Principals, Primary Leadership teams and Post Primary Principals. Each conference had full attendance and the engagement and commitment of the participants led to lively conversations. At the Deputy Principals' conference dinner presentations were made to 3 Deputy Principals who retired in 2023 and to Caroline Clarke who had retired as Director of Education and Leadership. An online meeting was also held for the Post Primary Principals.

Sr Orla Treacy from Loreto in Rumbek, attended both Principals' conferences and gave an inspiring presentation on the Loreto mission in South Sudan. The schools have all been ardent supporters of this mission for the last 20 years, and it was an ideal time to thank the schools and to share the amazing developments that have happened in Rumbek over the years.

School Governance

Loreto Post Primary Boards of Management due for renewal in October 2023 included Loreto Bray, Loreto Cavan, Loreto Crumlin, Loreto Dalkey, Loreto



Foxrock and Loreto Navan. Four Chairpersons were renewed and two new Chairpersons were appointed for Loreto Crumlin and Loreto Navan, respectively. The process of election of teacher and parent nominees took place at individual school level. Following consultations and conversations, the Trust Board named the various Trustee Nominees. All new members of Boards of Managements were appointed formally by the Loreto Education Trust Board.

We are grateful to the outgoing Chairpersons, Nuala Mannion and Liz Cogan, for their commitment and generous service of the schools over many years.

In December 2023, Mary Murnaghan, the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in Omagh, resigned after over 25 years on the Board and was replaced as Chairperson by Frank Sweeney who has also served many years on the Board.

The Boards of Management at all our Primary schools began a new term of office on December 1st 2023. Again teacher, parent and community nominees were elected locally, and following discussions and consultation the Trust Board nominated the relevant Trustee nominees.

We are grateful to all our Boards of Management in the Community Schools, where Loreto is a member of the Joint Patron, and in our voluntary secondary Post Primary and Primary schools. Board members give of their time and energy voluntarily in the governance of our schools. It is extraordinary service and we are grateful to each one for their commitment and generosity.

On-going conversations on the possible amalgamation of St Patrick's Loreto Primary school in Bray with a neighbouring school came to conclusion in March 2024, with the decision that they would not amalgamate but that St Patrick's would remain a Catholic school and from September 2024 would retain their boys in 1st class, aiming to have a full co-educational school by 2029.

A number of changes took place in senior management posts in the Loreto schools in 2023 and these are recorded in the appendices.





Joint Patronage of Community Schools

Loreto involvement in the joint patronage of 5 Community schools continues to be valued. A problem still exists with DES approving the transfer of the Catholic patronage by the Religious Congregation to the relevant Education Trust bodies. This conversation continues and legal advice varies in relation to the interpretation of certain sections of the Deed of Trust. The Loreto Province has delegated the Loreto Education Trust to act on its behalf in all matters of patronage and trusteeship until such time as the above problem is resolved nationally.

Loreto and the National Scene

The Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools, APTCS, is a strong body for the voice of the patrons of Catholic education in Ireland. While acknowledging the great need for diverse provision in today's modern Ireland there is also a great need to recognise and strengthen the provision of Catholic education. Sr Noelle has found that membership of the board of APTCS, and that of the AJP (Association of Joint Patrons), to be very educative and informative and has provided a welcome re-entry into the Irish Education scene and the developments and conversations taking place here.

The Genesis research was carried out in 2019 and 2023 and has allowed for greater awareness and opened up conversations around the provision of Catholic education. Ten principles derived from this Genesis research and are aligned with Church teachings on Catholic education principles and are used as a stimulus for dialogue and reflection on the lived reality of Catholic schools, (see appendices). Principals and Deputy Principals have attended workshops on this topic and conversations have also taken place at the Loreto Leadership conferences. The 10 Principles can be found in the appendices.



GRACE Conference Freemantle

Two Loreto Principals, Aileen Kennedy from Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey and Colm Keher from Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny, attended a meeting in Freemantle in Western Australia to research and explore the organisation of Catholic Education in Western Australia.



Presentations were made at the Loreto Leadership conferences and this again opened up the conversation on the ethos of our schools.

Schools of Sanctuary

Loreto Secondary School in Wexford has been awarded School of Sanctuary status in the past year. Bunscoil Loreto in Gorey has had the title since 2020. This is an award that recognises the work done by the school to be inclusive and welcoming of all who are living in Ireland and all who are seeking refuge here. In the light of the current debate it seems fitting that our schools would give leadership in acceptance and welcome. Again presentations were made at Leadership conferences and because of the relevance and necessity of a welcoming space for our students, other schools have expressed interest in following this path.



Loreto Education Centre

The Loreto Education centre in Foxrock continues to offer a high degree of support and service to the schools. A small staff of 4 offers support to Boards of Management, Principals and leadership teams, Sports and Debate Co-ordinators, while providing teacher induction and formative workshops on various topics.

Extra-Curricular activities

Many extra-curricular Loreto activities continue to take place and are mainly organised by teachers in the schools. The Loreto Debating and Public speaking competitions, Loreto Sports Day, Loreto Swimming Gala, continue to be important events in the Loreto schools calendar.

Tribute to Sister Eileen Randles

An event took place in Dublin City University, on the University's St. Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra, on Tuesday November 7th 2023 to honour Sr. Eileen Randles IBVM. The event formed part of the DCU Women in Leadership initiative, Project 50:50, which represents a commitment by the university to name 50% of its major buildings and lecture theatres after inspiring females.

Professor Dáire Keogh, a past student of the junior classes in Loreto Primary School Grange Road, said at the event:



“The naming of the Sr Eileen Randles Theatre is a tribute to her extraordinary legacy as a female leader at a time when Ireland’s education sector was very much male-dominated. Her career spanned a period of great change, too, and her encouragement of the fledgling Educate Together movement is a reflection her commitment to values based education. The university is committed to holding up female role models who can provide an inspiration to our students. The naming of this theatre in honour of Sr Eileen, as part of Project 50:50 is just one of the initiatives DCU has undertaken in this regard.”



with the Trust Board and with Principals it seems an appropriate time to re-establish it again. A small group will meet to discuss terms of reference for a post-Covid LNEC.

A small number of schools were visited since January but with a longer third term in 2024, it is planned to make more visits after Easter.

Conclusion

In returning to the Irish Education landscape after many years abroad, it has been a homecoming for me and I am grateful to the Trust Board, the Boards of Managements, Principals and staff members for their welcome.

Sr Noelle Corscadden, IBVM

Retirements and Appointments 2024

A number of retirements have been announced for summer 2024 and recruitment processes have begun for five Deputy Principals, one Community school Principal and two Primary Principals.

The Loreto Network of Education Committee

The Loreto Network of Education Committee has not met since the beginning of COVID. In conversations



Loreto Conferences academic year 2023/2024

Conference	Date	Venue
Post Primary Chairpersons' Conference	Tuesday 10 th to Wednesday 11 th October 2023	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Post Primary Principals' Conference	Wednesday 8 th to Friday 10 th November 2023	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Post Primary Deputy/Vice Principals' Conference	Thursday 18 th to Friday 19 th January 2024	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Primary Leadership Conference	Thursday 29 th February – 1 st March 2024	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
Post Primary Spring Principals' Conference	Tuesday 5 th – Wednesday 6 th March 2024	Keadeen Hotel, Co Kildare
<i>Online Meetings</i>		
Post Primary Principals'	Tuesday 5 th September 2023	
Teacher Induction	Wednesday 6 th September 2023	
Post Primary Principals'	Thursday 5 th October 2023	
Post Primary Deputy/Vice Principals'	Monday 16 th October 2023	
Student Council Secondary Schools	Tuesday 14 th November 2023	
Student Council Primary Schools	Thursday 23 rd November 2023	
Post Primary Principals'	Thursday 14 th December 2023	
Post Primary Principals'	Wednesday 24 th January 2024	



Loreto Appointments

from February 2023 to March 2024

Retirements/Appointments		
School	Retired	Appointed
Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan	Chris Garvey	Dr Niamh McNally (Deputy Principal) Katherine Kearns (Deputy Principal)
Loreto High School, Beaufort		Laura O'Driscoll (Deputy Principal)
Loreto Secondary School, Bray		Margaret Scott (Deputy Principal)
Loreto College, Crumlin		Mary Kelleher (Principal) Elaine Dillon (Deputy Principal)
Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey		Will Flanagan (Deputy Principal) September 2023 (Acting)
Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy		Aoife Hennessy (Deputy Principal)
Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny		Niamh Fitzpatrick (Deputy Principal)
Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny	Imelda Rodgers	Aileen Harvey
Loreto College, Mullingar	Sinead Lawlor July 2023 Carmel O'Grady (Deputy Principal)	Olivia Callaghan (Principal) Bridie Smyth (Deputy Principal)
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh		Lisa Ryan (Acting Vice Principal) October 2023
Loreto Secondary School, Wexford	Chris O'Reilly	Diarmuid O'Dowd (Deputy Principal) September 2023 Patricia Kinsella (Deputy Principal) September 2023



Community Schools		
Gorey Community School		Maurice O'Toole (Deputy Principal)
Portmarnock Community School		David Clarke (Deputy Principal)
Primary Schools		
St Patrick's Bray	Brian O Doherty (Principal) (Secondment)	Anne-Marie McGovern (Acting Principal)
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Letterkenny	Maura McNicholl (Deputy Principal)	Irene McFadden (Deputy Principal)
St Anne's, Navan	Clíodhna O'Bric (Principal)	Miriam McCabe (Principal)
BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT		
Loreto Secondary School, Navan	Liz Cogan	Paschal Marry
Loreto College, Crumlin	Nuala Mannion	Patricia Carey
Loreto Primary School, Dalkey	Eve Roche	Caroline McNicholas
St Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray	Robert Dunne	Graine McGowan
Loreto Junior Primary School, Crumlin	Catherine Shanahan	Cora O'Farrell
BOARD OF GOVERNORS		
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh	Mary Murnaghan	Frank Sweeney
LORETO TRUST BOARD		
Director	Brian Lenehan	Gráinne O'Hanlon



LORETO EDUCATION CENTRE

Director of Education & Leadership	Caroline Clarke (December 2023)	Noelle Corscadden IBVM (January 2024)
Office Manager and Finance Officer	Melissa Steele (October 2023)	Zhuwau Nota (December 2023)





Faith Development Co-Ordinator Report

Introduction

Keeping our focus fixed

A Mary Ward school today continues to take its bearings from Jesus, his gospel, and our charism, and to be guided by our JUST SOUL traditional values of Justice, Verity (Truth), Sincerity, Freedom, and Felicity (Joy).
(A Mary Ward Schools' Compass)

Faith development in our schools takes place in our daily timetables and structures, in how we relate to each other, as well as in our liturgies, prayer, Religious Education programmes, and our sense of "a faith that does justice." It is expressed in the way we embody our Loreto characteristic spirit, our particular graced way of living out the vision of Catholic education as Mary Ward's "company of friends." The following account gives a sense of some of the activities and events under the canopy of Faith Development which have taken place this year.

School Visits

The following schools were visited this year:

St Aidan's Community School; Loreto High School, Beaufort; Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny; Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan; Loreto College, Cavan; Loreto College, Foxrock; St Anne's Loreto Primary School, Navan; Loreto Senior Primary School, Crumlin; Loreto Primary School, Grange Road; Loreto Junior Primary, Crumlin; Loreto Junior School, St Stephen's Green; St Patrick's Loreto Primary School, Bray; Loreto College, Mullingar, Loreto College, St Stephen's Green; Loreto Grammar School, Omagh; Loreto College, Swords; Loreto Secondary School, Wexford.

Further school visits are planned for the second and third terms.

Such visits included meetings with Principals, Deputies, Chaplains and RE Departments. In some cases, we had meetings with other departments such as Music and Home Economics in relation to Music and Faith and the Mary Ward Week Bake-off respectively. School visits provided a great opportunity to have conversations with pupils through meetings with the Student Council, JPIC, Faith Leadership Teams, Eucharistic Ministers and to meet teachers and pupils in their class settings. Visiting schools involved participation in Assemblies, School Liturgies, Input and Workshops on



Loreto Ethos, Catholic Education and the Mary Ward Schools' Compass and other events such as Graduations, Create a Book Project, Launch of the Sensory Room, Art Exhibitions, Concerts, Carol Services, Intercultural events, Pennies for Peru and Run for Rumbek, Catholic Schools' Week and Mary Ward Week celebrations. In some cases, special celebrations were taking place such as in Loreto Primary School, Grange Road the oldest Loreto school in Ireland, who marked 200 years in May 2023 and in November 2023, St Anne's Loreto Primary School, Navan, celebrated 170 and 70 years of the foundation of the original St Anne's school and their "new" school building, respectively.

Conferences

Conferences have provided excellent inputs and great opportunities for our Loreto education community to meet and share. A special thank you to Eliza Connolly who organises these events with such care and professionalism.

Induction for new members of staff

The Induction Evening for new members of staff took place virtually on Wednesday, 6th September. As in previous years, we provided inputs on Catholic Education, Loreto Ethos, Mary Ward, Teresa Ball and the Mary Ward Schools' Compass. In

addition to this, we invited Ann Marie McDonough, Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, Colm Keher, Principal, Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny, and Olivia O'Connor, Deputy Principal, Loreto Primary School, Grange Road, to share their perspectives on working in a Loreto school. Since September 2020, this event has been online which has obvious benefits for those who have long distances to travel. However, we are also considering a return to two regional in-person Induction days and follow-up for new members of staff during the year.

Conferences for RE Departments in Portarlinton and Omagh

Conferences for Religious Education Teachers took place in Mount St. Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre, Portarlinton and in Loreto Grammar School, Omagh in October. The programmes included:

Opening Liturgy; RE Inspection: What is required? Religion & Gender; Senior Cycle RE; Creating Sacred Spaces in Schools; Retreat Teams; Finding God in Everything; Catholic Education and Loreto Ethos; Ignatian Spirituality in Schools; Liturgical Music; New Themes in Religious Education. Special thanks to Loreto Grammar School, Omagh who hosted one of these events and with members of their



school community led us in a beautiful Opening Liturgy.

Chaplains' Conference

In November, the Chaplains' Conference, an Inter-Trust collaboration between Dublin Diocesan Education Secretariat, Le Chéile, Spiritan and Loreto Education Trusts, was held in Castletown Retreat Centre. The programme included: *Welcome & Opening Prayer; Self-Care for Chaplains; Religion and Gender; Student Well-being and Mental Health; Embedding the Chaplaincy Team in Schools & Empowering Student Leadership; Meditation; Facilitated Round Table Discussion & Feedback on current concerns.*

Additional Conferences

- Principals' Conference
- Conference for Deputy Principals
- Conference for Primary Leadership Teams
- Guidance Counsellors' Conference

Student Council Training Days and Graduation

- The Student Council training days led by Sinéad Giblin (Loreto College, Foxrock) and Máirín O'Toole (formerly Loreto Secondary School, Bray), took place in November with our secondary schools coming

together online on 14th November and primary schools on the 23rd November. The Opening Prayer with its inclusion of the *Loreto Anthem* reflected the theme of the conference: *Fostering our Friendly Community*. The Student Councils work very hard in their schools guided by their accompanying teachers and it is wonderful to meet them on school visits to listen to their vision for the school and how they are putting it into practice.

- Last April, the Student Council end of year online gathering took place with a representative from the Office of the Ombudsman for Children giving input at the meeting for Post Primary Schools. We look forward to a similar event next term.

Reflection on Ethos Day

On 7 February, our *Reflection on Ethos Day* took place in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan.

It was a most enjoyable and uplifting day which was attended by staff and pupils from Loreto primary and post primary schools, as well as representatives from the Loreto Education Trust Board.

The presentations for the conference which were subsequently shared with all our schools are as follows:



- *Welcome and Opening Reflection* - Sr Noelle Corscadden and Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- *Loreto Ethos and the Whole Dalkey Community* – Jane Coyne
- *A Student's Perspective on Leading the Loreto Ethos* – Students from Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny
- *Today I Choose Joy* - Sinead Lawlor (former Principal, Loreto College, Mullingar)
- *Rooted in Our Values* - Sr Maria Hyland and pupils, Loreto Primary School, Grange Road
- *A Workshop on the Mary Ward Schools' Compass* - Srs Noelle and Kathleen
- *The Inspiration of Mary Ward* - Sr Elizabeth Cotter
- *Creating a Joy-filled School through JPIC* - Meadhbh Cleary and pupils from Loreto College, Swords
- *Dare to Share: Our Experiences of Peer Teaching in the Faith Space*. Fiona O'Dwyer and pupils from Loreto High School, Beaufort.

Such inspiring presentations touched profoundly into the heart of who we are as a Loreto community: - Catholic schools, called to live our God-given Mary Ward values, and deepen our understanding of this gift through our documents, including *Continuing the Journey* and *The Mary Ward Schools' Compass*. Above all, we

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cherished the opportunity to meet and listen to each other's perspectives on living our shared heritage with faith, hope, creativity, joy and love. Our conference ended with the beautiful music of *Called to be Happy* - a new cantata written in honour of Mary Ward, commissioned by the Maria Ward Schule, Mainz, Germany in celebration of their 300th Anniversary and composed by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon.

Music and Faith – Those who sing, pray twice!

The link between music and faith in our schools is expressed in a variety of ways, primarily in liturgy. Furthermore, Loreto schools participate in Laudate Music Festival for Primary Schools and the Emmanuel Programme and Concert for Post primary schools. Staff and pupils have written their own liturgical pieces and musical compositions about Mary Ward and Teresa Ball.

Primary Schools' Gathering: Music and Faith

An event which expressed this connection was the *Faith and Music Primary Schools' Day* on 28 April.

Following planning meetings with Principals and teachers in our primary schools and with Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh in Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham,



the day began at 11am in Loreto Abbey, the first Loreto school opened in 1822, now home to Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, with prayers, music and reflection. All joined in singing the beautiful music Aileen Kennedy from Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey had prepared for us that we had circulated during the year. Prayers composed and read by the pupils reflected our core values and especially Teresa Ball's deep faith and trust in God as she began this new enterprise of Loreto Education. Following our liturgy in Loreto Abbey, we were graciously invited by Sr Maria Hyland to Loreto, Grange Road Primary School for a lovely afternoon during which pupils from the different primary schools got to know each other as they had lunch, played together, and among other interesting activities, enjoyed a disco with the resident Loreto DJ! The day was attended by staff and pupils of primary schools, Loreto Sisters, with representatives from the Boards of Management and Loreto Education Trust. Special thanks to Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, Loreto Primary School, Grange Road and all who joined in the preparation of this event.

Loreto Prayer Book for Primary Schools

This project is led by Loreto Primary School, Dalkey; and schools have sent in beautiful prayers, pictures and reflections to be included in the book which:

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- is divided into five sections (Justice/Freedom/Sincerity/Truth/Joy)
- has each prayer by a student written on a background of a picture drawn by a student.
- will be prefaced by a short account of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball.

In addition to this, a short book on Mary Ward suitable for primary pupils, will also be produced.

Mary Ward Week

The theme of *Catholic Schools' Week 2024*, "Communities of Service" re-echoed our celebrations of Mary Ward Week this year as we marked both during the same week.

Prayers, liturgies, historical accounts, videos, music, visual art, justice and faith projects, and many activities embodied Mary Ward's spirit in our contemporary context. This year we linked up with the Home Economics Departments in our schools and our *Mary Ward 2024* resource pack included an invitation to *Bake a Cake for Mary Ward Week*. Pupils selected an aspect of Mary Ward's life that inspires them or chose one of the core values: (Justice, Freedom, Sincerity, Truth, Joy.) and baked a cake that exemplified the chosen subject. The photographs of these culinary delights



sent to us were accompanied by written reflections about their cake and theme. Congratulations to all for the high standards of baking and profound and insightful accounts of Mary Ward's life. An added dimension to Mary Ward Week this year was the fact that we linked up with the events in York, including the online campaign: "Mary Ward for Saint."

A recurring musical motif of the celebrations was the beautiful *Lead us on Mary Ward* composed by Deirdre Browne IBVM, Australia.



"Faith that does Justice" - Ember/Ember Ignite / Solas Student Teams

The programmes for Faith Leadership teams of students in our schools are contributing much to the spiritual life of each school, thanks to the staff and pupils who are leading these teams. The Ember Programme for schools in the Dublin Diocese is organised by the Core Team

with three sets of 3-day training courses for the pupils in August, September and October. Each year we, on the Core Team, plan an *Ember Renewal Day* in January and a *Graduation Day* in May for the participants. Such events incorporate time for the schools to present the work they have been doing in their schools as Ember leaders.

The schools which are not part of the Dublin diocese training follow a faith leadership programme called Ember-Ignite/Solas. It includes some aspects of the Ember programme with Ignatian reflection, and the stories of Mary Ward and Teresa Ball as role-models of faith leadership.

All groups have the Ember Prayer based on 2 Timothy 1:6 (Help me to fan into flame the gift of God that is within me) as their *leitmotif*. This year, the faith leadership teams have prepared school prayer, sacred space for the liturgical seasons, school Masses and other liturgies, assisted with induction of new first year pupils, helped to organise prayer services and other events for Mary Ward Week, prepared retreat days for primary pupils guided by their teachers, and a myriad other activity. The following schools have Ember, Ember-Ignite and Solas Teams:



Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan
Loreto High School, Beaufort
St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield
Loreto College, Cavan
Loreto College, Crumlin
Loreto Abbey, Dalkey
Loreto College, Foxrock
Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny
Loreto College, Mullingar
Loreto College, St Stephen's Green.
Loreto Secondary School, Wexford

APTCS

As members of the APTCS Ethos Committee, we have regular meetings. Our collaboration together includes sharing of resources between the Trusts, updated research findings of the Genesis Report, APTCS' response to the NCCA consultation on the subject specification for SPHE at senior cycle. Compiling lists of speakers for RE and other conferences, linking with the Council for Catechetics whose main function is to support the teaching of RE and who link with the Council for Education and CEP in relation to SPHE/RSE. We also attended the

- APTCS AGM in DCU in May 2023 at which Barbara Cooper from the Scottish Catholic Education Service gave an inspiring presentation on *Succession planning and formation of Catholic leaders*.

- APTCS Conference Launch of the Strategic Plan in Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre, Portarlinton in October 2023.
- In Maynooth we had a Round Table Discussion: Continuing Professional Development for RE Teachers in Catholic Post-Primary Schools: Being Catholic in Contemporary Ireland - A Collaborative Project on Catholic Education - CEP, CPSMA, APTCS and JMB.

Féile Rangeela: A Collaboration Between India and Ireland Celebrating Diversity

The mission of the Féile-Rangeela project begun in 2020, 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. This collaboration is between the Atlantic Technological University, Galway, Dublin City University, 'Loyola Academy CBSE Senior Secondary School', Chennai, India, Loreto, College, St Stephen's Green, and the Loreto Education Centre and we met online in March 2023 to share our completed projects.



Our chosen theme this year was Celebrations of Diwali and Saint Brigid.

The presentations from ATU, Loyola College, Chennai and Loreto College, St Stephen's Green were excellent and thought-provoking as all shared their final work and the process of completing it. The first year art class from Loreto College, St Stephen's Green had created stunningly beautiful stamps to represent various aspects of St Brigid's life. They explained the symbolism of the colour and genre chosen for their artwork and related the story of St Brigid through their beautiful intricate Celtic designs. This year the event was attended by all the first years in the school, staff members and parents.

Further ongoing initiatives and events

Retreats and Prayer

- Pilgrimage for chaplains - Kimmage Manor
- Regional School Retreats in Tallaght
- Loreto High School Beaufort - Prayer in Abbey House Cemetery to mark Mary Ward Week.
- School Retreats
- Retreats for Staff

Online Prayer and Sharing of Faith

Our schools have led the lunchtime online prayer and created videos sharing their

faith throughout the year. Examples of this include:

- Lunchtime (1.20-1.40) Online Prayer Space for Grace during Advent (Pilgrims with Hope) and Lent (Lent: A Doorway of Renewal – Pilgrims of Peace) organised in collaboration with other Trusts.
- Videos for Advent *Walking Advent with One Heart and One Spirit 2023*: This inter-Trust initiative by the Spiritan Education Trust, Dublin Diocese and the Loreto Education Trust involved producing a video based on the readings of the day for every day in Advent. A similar initiative currently being prepared is *Walking the Path to Pentecost 2024*.
- Pilgrimage
- St Vincent de Paul

Archives

- Meetings with Loreto Archives with regard to visitors from Loreto Education Australia and the India-Ireland research project.

Launch of Conversations from the Classroom – DCU – 24 April

This Podcast Series, *Conversations from the Classroom*, is hosted by Dr David



Kennedy who speaks to a variety of guests from the field of Catholic education and other associated areas. Topics include matters of management and governance in Catholic education and Irish education; LGBTQ+ perspectives in Catholic Education; the Politics of Irish Education and ongoing developments in the professional practice of the educator. The series was launched by Raymond Friel and consisted of a short introduction to the podcast material.

Collaboration with Groups

In addition to working with other Trusts, we appreciate our collaboration with the following groups:

Bible Journalling

We have linked up with the DCU IRC project: *The New Illuminators: Women in Search of Spiritual Authority and Resilience* for inputs.

The project “focuses on the spiritual autonomy gained, exercised and expressed by women actively engaged in the practice of Bible journaling – a practice that nurtures women’s faith and their unique experience of God within an honest and vibrant spirituality.” This research explores and interprets women’s experience and spiritual practice and brings them into the framework of current theological discourse.

Loreto Spirituality Team

We greatly appreciate the work of the Loreto Spirituality Team led by Sr Anne Farren who continued to deliver programmes to fourth and fifth year students as well as weeks of guided prayer to senior students in our schools.

The Council for Catechetics

The Council for Catechetics is responsible for articulating policy and vision for the catechetical needs of Ireland, North and South, on behalf of the Episcopal Conference. It liaises with the Episcopal Commission for Education, other Commissions of the Bishops’ Conference and with other bodies and individuals in the area of catechesis and Religious Education. We also connect with the Council for retreats for teachers and other meetings.

International Loreto Links

We appreciate our links with Loreto/Mary Ward schools around the world strengthened during the Teresa Ball Bi-Centenary celebrations. Recent examples include our contact with Australia in relation to teacher exchange between Loreto schools in Ireland and Australia and visits by personnel from Loreto Ministries, Australia in July 2023 and April 2024. We look forward to meeting staff and students from Mandeville Hall, Toorak, Melbourne when they visit in



September 2024 for a school sports tour to the UK and Ireland.

Godly Play

RE Departments have been introduced to the story telling methodology of Godly Play by Cora O'Farrell (Godly Play trainer and lecturer in RE in DCU) at our recent RE Conference and we are continuing to build on this. Some teachers are already incorporating this method into their teaching. It is an excellent way to bring Bible stories to life in school settings.

Faith and Justice

This collaboration between the Spiritan Trust, DCU, the Dublin Diocese and Loreto Education Trust is for past pupils. In addition to our meetings, we have met the Ember Teams from our schools at both their Renewal and Graduation Days to listen to their input into this initiative and incorporate their suggestions for the project.

Shekinah Retreats

We had meetings with the director of the Shekinah programme about the updated Diploma in Spirituality and the Certificate in Spirituality. This part-time programme which qualifies teachers to direct school retreats is a one-year course run in St Patrick's College Maynooth as a series of ten weekends which may also be completed over two years.

Alpha Research

Alpha Ireland have been in touch with us to conduct some research on Religious Education, resources available and teachers' participation in professional development and faith formation in Ireland.

Faith Development Resources

- Prayer Resources for Peace in our World
- Religious Education
- Catholic Schools' Week – Communities of Service
- Mary Ward
- Synodality
- St Brigid
- St Patrick
- Care of the Earth
- Bookmarks – for First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Bereavement
- Resources for the Liturgical Year
- Credible Catholic

Genesis Research

A reflective resource which links the ten statements of Catholic Education with the Mary Ward Schools' Compass.



We remember with love and gratitude

We hold in prayer members of our Loreto Education Community who have died: Pupils, past staff, past students, relatives and friends of our Loreto family.

Horizon-scanning

In the timeless NOW of Eternity.

Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM
Faith Development Co-ordinator

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.

Elsewhere in this report, you will have read the account of the naming of the Sr Eileen Randles Lecture Theatre in DCU, a tribute to her outstanding contribution to education.

It is appropriate that we include here the beautiful poem by Eileen Randles IBVM:

The timeless NOW of Eternity

Death is
Not an end
But a continuing
A changing
For new venue living
A going
And a coming
With God
To God
All faith fulfilling
No longer
Wavering
Wondering
But secure
At peace.
Happily gone on ahead
Rejoining
Awaiting

Office Manager and Finance Officer Report

For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023, the Loreto Education Trust showed marked improvement, with an operating deficit of €14,053, (significantly reduced from the previous year). This turnaround resulted in an overall surplus of €232,472. The decrease in expenditure compared to the previous year was a key factor contributing to this positive outcome, promising a more balanced operating budget in the future.

Additionally, the capital appreciation of €232k on the Trust's investments provided a significant boost, instilling confidence in the Trust's investment strategies. Going forward, the Trust Board aims to address the challenge of balancing ever-increasing costs with income, ensuring continued financial stability and sustainability.



Governance

Throughout its existence, the Loreto Education Trust has remained steadfast in its commitment to adhere to the Charities Governance Code, consistently declaring compliance with the code by submitting our Annual Report to the Regulator as required. Our dedication to maintaining ongoing compliance with the code remains unwavering.

In its capacity as the patron of affiliated schools, the Trust undertakes a governance role. As per Article 15C of the Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools, each school's Board of Management is tasked with drafting an annual budget and submitting it to the Trustees. Additionally, schools must furnish copies of their Year End Financial Statements/Accounts, which undergo review by the Trust Board of Directors. Any identified issues are promptly addressed with the respective school's Board of Management.

Schools are further required to provide an Annual School Board of Management Report, covering various aspects including education, ethos, leadership, governance, and finance. The Education Centre meticulously assesses these reports and compiles a summary for the Trust Board's review. Schools are also obligated to

submit a Declaration regarding their financial activity and position.

The Education Centre remains dedicated to continually supporting schools and their Boards of Management in governance and financial matters. This support extends to providing relevant training at Principal and Chairpersons' Conferences in collaboration with the FSSU.

In my capacity as the Office Manager & Finance Officer overseeing Governance and Finance, I am fully committed to providing ongoing support to schools in financial management and compliance on a day-to-day basis as required.

Zhuwau Nota
Office Manager and Finance Officer

Northern Ireland Report 2023- 2024

General

The Northern Ireland Executive was restored in February 2024 and Paul Givan is the new Minister of Education. After years of underfunding and political uncertainty there is a huge challenge for the Minister to address this issue. The Independent Review of Education in Northern Ireland was published in



December 2023 and can be viewed on the Department of Education's (DE) website. A recent change to legislation requires all post-primary schools to provide "age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights covering prevention of early pregnancy and access to abortion". This, together with growing gender issues in schools, has seen the Ethos Committee of the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service (CSTS) engage significantly with these issues with the aim of providing comprehensive guidance to schools.

Academic Selection

Loreto Grammar School Omagh (LGSO) submitted Development Proposal 715 to legitimise its 50/50 academic/non-academic selection intake from September 2024 onwards. All relevant documents are now with the Minister for a decision. The DP process not being complete for September 2024, Dr Mark Brown (Permanent Secretary at the DE) gave permission for the September 2024 arrangement. The Board of Governors has given a commitment to move to 100% non-academic intake in the future.

Loreto College Coleraine (LCC)

The school was identified in a Ministerial statement in March 2022 as earmarked for a new school and a move to "Advance in Planning" was confirmed for the school

with the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly. This forms part of DE's Major Capital Works Programme (MCWP)

Strule Shared Education Campus (SSEC) Website: www.strule.org

John Smith stepped down from his role in SSEC and was replaced by Suzanne Kingon. She quickly "decided to carry out a review of the proposed ownership, governance and funding arrangements of the campus, particularly the shared areas". The outcome of this review was presented to the Managing Authority Liaison Group (MALG) members at a meeting on 5th February 2024 and informed via documents MALG 95 and 96. DE's proposals would see it retain landlordship of the shared areas and commission the Education Authority (EA) to provide facilities management. Funding would be provided directly by DE to EA and would be ring-fenced. Schools' financial contributions would be restricted to the upkeep of the external sports facilities only. The proposals have been widely welcomed and welcomed also at the LET meeting on 4th March 2024 with reference to favourable assessment from Napier Solicitors Belfast.

DE have ear-marked mid-May as the date for the signing of the Main Works Contract and therefore the date by which DE's proposals would be agreed by Managing Authorities/Trustees and schools.



In a statement made on 12th March 2024, Minister Givan said that as costs have risen significantly, he was not in a position to confirm funding for the project and this would have to be referred to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

On March 21st 2024 it was announced that £150 million has been allocated to the Strule Shared Education campus in Omagh

Gráinne O Hanlon had kindly accepted the position of Interim Director on the Skeleton Company but given the proposals above, this position is no longer required.

Brian Lenehan
March 2024

Vacated Sites

A “Call for Sites” submission process has been issued by Omagh and Fermanagh District Council (OFDC). This is a process that seeks to integrate the vacated school sites into the Council’s Area Plan. Loreto has consistently expressed the desire to have its site used in a manner consistent with its ethos.



The Future

LCC and LGSO were greatly relieved with the decision taken by the Loreto Sisters in December 2023 re the future direction of the Family of Loreto Schools.



Property Adviser Report



March 2024

Secondary Schools		
School	Development	Funding
Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan	Refurbishment of School Hall	€250,000- school funded
Loreto High School, Beaufort	Master plan approved for future development of the Memorial Block. General upkeep and maintenance.	TBD
Loreto Secondary School, Bray	Notification of planning consent for new school granted, pending 4 week appeal period. New boiler.	€194,052 DES funded
Loreto College, Cavan	3 year Emergency Fire Safety work completed. Emergency Funding applied for in a number of areas.	
Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel	Reconfiguration of two rooms to provide for an ASD class.	€8,043 DES funded
Loreto College, Coleraine	Approval granted by DE for a major capital project. New boiler equipment. History and Geography rooms transformed for other curricular uses.	£26,000-DE funded DE funded
	Canteen roof repair.	School funded
Loreto College, Crumlin	Roof repair.	€ 48,000 Emergency Funding
Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey	Refurbishment of Physics and Biology Labs.	€293,815 School funded
	Repair of perimeter wall.	School funded less conservation grant of €7,800



Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy	Convent renovation at stage 2B.	
Loreto College, Foxrock	Upgrades to staff room, kitchen, offices etc. Roofing works.	€161,000 €6,500 All school funded
Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny	Major extension approved (2100 sqm). Stage 1 report submitted. Gym windows and doors replaced under summer works.	
Loreto Secondary School, Letterkenny	Awaiting tender approval for two classrooms.	
Loreto College, Mullingar	Window replacement project granted- awaiting costings. Life Safety System granted. At tender stage.	Circa €300,000 - School funded
Loreto Secondary School, Navan	A modular build for a Moderate General Learning Difficulty Special Class. ICT equipment. Tendering for repair of a flat roof in process. A walking track for staff, students and Loreto Sisters. Upgrade on heating in St Ciarans building. Major extension programme at Stage 2B.	DES funded €200,000 DES funded €15,700 School funded €15,000 School funded €20,000
Loreto Grammar School, Omagh	The Board of Governors and Principal fully engaged in the Strule process. Wide range of applications for minor works projects.	



St Stephen's Green	Renovations of Sports Hall, canteen, reception area etc. Awaiting planning response from DCC.	
Loreto College, Swords	Design Team now in place for major extension under the auspices of the NDFA. Emergency Life Safety and Fire Detection System. Heating system issues. Wide range of school funded works.	€540,000 DES funded € 7,000 DES funded €36,000
Loreto Secondary School, Wexford	Tentative discussion for additional accommodation due to curricular demands.	
Primary Schools		
School	Development	Funding
St Patrick's, Loreto Primary School, Bray	Replacement of windows and external doors Approval for emergency lighting and safety systems	€ 313, 288 €460,000
Crumlin Junior Primary	Permission granted for two ASD Units.	
Crumlin Senior Primary	Final payments on capital building programme	€47,428 - DES funded
Dalkey Primary	Wall repair. Roof repair.	€25,594 €5,938
Stephen's Green, Junior School	General maintenance.	

Eddie Fynes
Property Adviser



Appendices

10 Principles for Catholic Education

10 Principles for Catholic Education

These principles were derived from the Synodal research conducted in 2019 and 2021 and aligned with Church teachings on Catholic education. The intention is that the principles are used as a stimulus for dialogue and reflection on the lived reality of Catholic schools. How well does your school live these principles?

10 draft principles for Catholic education

It is a challenge for the changing landscape.
A top priority for schools should be to provide the positive role of Catholic Church in parish, diocese and beyond education.

1. Catholic schools place the person of Jesus at the centre.

JESUS AT THE CENTRE

2. A Catholic school encompasses prayer, retreats, and liturgical celebrations and provides a quiet space for prayer and reflection.

3. The Catholic school enables young people to develop a moral compass to navigate the world around them, both real and online. It helps them to make informed decisions, be resilient and be a 'solid citizen'.

Faith Formation
Dreaming Together
Forming Disciples for Faith and Justice

4. Catholic schools see Religious Education and faith formation as central to the curriculum.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



5. Students are encouraged to develop their potential and achieve to their best standards in all areas of learning and contribute to the global common good.




6. Catholic schools are 'dialogue schools': confident of their own identity and open to dialogue with others.





7. Catholic schools listen to the voice of young people and promote joy, trust and compassion.



8. Catholic schools are inclusive and welcoming.





10. Spiritual Development is a key aspect of education.



Loreto Education Trust

Loreto Education Trust

COMPANY MEMBERS

Barbara Murphy IBVM
Jane Bailey IBVM
Kathleen Fitzpatrick 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, Chairperson
Martin Boyd
Elizabeth Cotter IBVM
Jennifer Edwards
Ruth Ferris
Brian Lenehan (Retired March 2024)
Sheila McManamly
Gráinne O'Hanlon (Appointed March 2024)
Brede Quirke IBVM
Bernadette Ryan
Eileen Salmon



OFFICERS OF THE LORETO EDUCATION CENTRE

Caroline Clarke –Director of Education and Leadership, (Resigned December 2023)

Sr Noelle Corscadden, IBVM – Director of Education and Leadership (Appointed January 2024)

Eliza Connolly – Event Manager and Administrator

Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick IBVM – Faith Development Co-Ordinator

Edward Fynes – Schools Property Adviser

Zhuwau Nota – Office Manager and Finance Officer (Appointed December 2023)

Melissa Steele – Office Manager & Finance Officer (Resigned October 2023)



Membership of Boards of Management 2023-2026

School	Board of Management
Loreto Secondary School, Bray	Michael Denny (Chairperson) Carol Buckley Laura Cuddihy Eamonn Burgess Emer Carey Adam Douglas Joanne Lenehan Barry Galligan Dee Ryan (Secretary)
Loreto College, Crumlin Road	Patricia Carey (Chairperson) Seamus Given Denise Griffin Paula Moore Suzanne Byrne Gareth Lenehan Yvonne Keating John Mulreid Mary Kelleher (Secretary)
Loreto College Cavan	Padraig Kellegher (Chairperson) Breege Flynn Jacinta O Callaghan Edel Morrisson. Marianne Smith Niall Fox Angela McGarvey (Secretary)
Loreto College, Dalkey	Dr Eilis Humphreys (Chairperson) Geraldine Bracken Lorraine Dwyer Jim Wade Aisling Green



	Will Flanagan Mary Pat McAlarey Conor Murray Robert Dunne (Secretary)
Loreto College, Foxrock	Geraldine Ryan (Chairperson) Raomal Perera Bernard O'Boyle Donal Walsh Carmel McGettrick Stephen Delahunty Mary O'Sullivan Garrett Hickey Bernie Prendiville (Secretary)
Loreto Secondary School, St. Michael's Navan	Paschal Marry (Chairperson) Ken Davis Sinéad Murphy Peter O'Sullivan Brian Heraty Breda Deegan Glenda Finneran Ciaran Mellett Maria Harney (Secretary)



Membership of Primary Schools Boards of Management 2023-2027

Schools	Patron Nominees	Principal	Teacher Nominees	Parent Nominees	Community Representative
St Patrick's Loreto Primary Bray	Gráine McGowan (Chairperson) Joe Maguire	Anne Marie McGovern	Elisa Billington	Alan Duffy Susan O' Callaghan	Nuala Mannion Anne O Leary
Loreto Senior Primary Crumlin	Rev Fergal MacDonagh (Chairperson) Sr Patricia Cadogan	Avril Sheridan	Kevin Timmons	Richie Galvin Deirdre Keighron	Liz Lee Gillian O Connor
Loreto Junior Primary Crumlin	Cora O'Farrell (Chairperson) Sr Patricia Cadogan	Mary Galligan	Rebecca Tadros	Deirdre Mullen McGuinness Tony O'Reilly	Vivion Powney Caroline Mannion
Loreto Primary School Dalkey	Caroline McNicholas (Chairperson) Jenny Edwards	Fíona McKenna	Kate Sheehan	Caitriona Garde John Davis	Jim Bracken Peter Woods
St Anne's Loreto Primary Navan	Rev Robert McCabe	Miriam McCabe	Nichola Lynch	Paul Kiernan Paula Keating	Oliver Shanley Eamonn O'Neill
Bunscoil Loreto Gorey	V. Rev William Flynn	Aileen Kennedy	Brendan Travers	Raymond Kelly Tara Jean Kinsella	Kieran Funge Rosaleen O'Grady



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál	Monsignor Kevin Gillespie (Chairperson) Rev. Damien Nejad	Irene Simmons	Toni Harvey	John Clarke Bernadette Keys	Carmel Mulroe Johnny Dorrian
Loreto Junior School St. Stephen's Green	Ann Donnelly (Chairperson)	Tracy Hogan	Lisa Walsh	Lyndsey Foley Ronan Cahill	(Trustee Reps) Conall McCarthy Robert Manson



Community School Board of Management 2023 - 2026

	St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght	Loreto Community School, Milford, Co. Donegal
Religious Trustee Nominees	Sr Elizabeth Cotter Sr Kathleen Fitzpatrick Andrew Cody	Sharon Cannon (Loreto) Andrew Kelly (Loreto) Fr. Michael Carney PP (Bishop of Raphoe)
ETB Nominees	Bernie Mac Loughlin Keith O'Connor (Chairperson) Nichola Spokes	Patsy McVicar Jane McGettigan Dympna Barrett
Teacher Nominees	Stephen Dooley (ASTI) Shane Casey (TUI)	Margaret Bonner Joseph McBride
Parent Nominees	Anne-Marie Foster Rachel McCabe	Donna McFadden David Brady
Secretary	Kevin Shortall (Principal)	Margaret O' Connor (Principal)
In attendance	Una Moloney (Deputy Principal)	



Loreto Schools Student Numbers

(1st January 2024)

POST-PRIMARY	STUDENTS
Balbriggan	1,257
Beaufort	652
Bray	738
Cavan	660
Clonmel	480
Coleraine	1017
Crumlin Road	368
Dalkey	734
Fermoy	708
Foxrock	599
Kilkenny	1,046
Letterkenny	938
Mullingar	841
Navan	869
Omagh	890
St Stephen's Green	580
Swords	619
Wexford	898
PRIMARY	
Bray	706
Crumlin (Junior)	210
Dalkey	301
Grange Road	475
Loreto College, Junior School	204
Schools with historical links with Loreto:	
Crumlin Senior Primary	221
Bunscoil Loreto, Gorey	655



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Letterkenny	446
St Anne's, Navan	301
COMMUNITY	
St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield	460
Gorey Community School	1608
Loreto Community School, Milford	821
Portmarnock Community School	961
Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Youghal	1098

Total Number of Students (1 Jan 2024): 22,361

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.

