



ROCKWELL COLLEGE

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

FOR SET APPROVAL

May 2019

Introduction:

Since 1864 Rockwell College has been committed to the offering of Spiritan education and the embedding of the Core Values in the young men, and more recently women, who attend. Throughout its history Rockwell College has had a proud tradition of the support of Spiritan mission and the Board of Management of Rockwell College continues its commitment to that mission of education which is recognised in the Spiritan Rule of Life as being one of its principle activities .

In recent years the challenges to Catholic education have increased and it is incumbent on Boards of Spiritan schools to ensure the teaching of Catholic values and in particular the values of that given school. Part of that, is the drive to create an environment where every child is included and cared for not just from an educational perspective but from a presentation of a vision of life that is caring, supportive and community based. In tandem with this is the need to ensure that prayer and Sacrament form a strong basis in that life.

Francis Libermann articulated the importance of education at the service of mission and Rockwell is committed to carrying this vision of holistic education forward. Rockwell College is unique in the Spiritan family in Ireland - its co-educational status and its offering of day-boarding ensures a robust and tangible sense of community is experienced by its pupils. The inclusion of girls 30 years ago has been incredibly positive and has allowed the pupils attending to live out the charism in a particular and unique way. This is an aspect of Rockwell College worth protecting and strengthening so as to further extend this to others who wish their daughters and sons to experience Spiritan educational values.

Strategic Plan 2019-2024:

Rockwell is a Faith Community living in challenging times. Catholic education in Ireland needs to respond creatively and in a proactive manner to the complexities facing us today. The current context today sees a fall in College finance -however, the BOM remains committed to rectifying this situation to keep the Rockwell Educational mission progressing in to the future.

The Board of Management presents this Strategic Plan to give concrete foundations to the expression of ethos and, in doing so, offers a roadway for the solidifying and strengthening of Rockwell College as a Spiritan school for generations into the future. Much of the onus for the delivery of the strategy falls to the Board of Management and this document can guide Board planning and decisions over the next five years. Vital to the success of the Strategic Plan is the support of the Spiritan Education Trust Board. At this time I would like to highlight four key strands of the proposed strategic plan:

1. Approval for the funding and commencement of residential boarding for girls

Since their arrival at Rockwell College, girls have been unable to avail of the full Spiritan boarding experience through their placement with Host Families who have, to their credit, shown huge care and commitment. The Board seeks Trustees approval to further the vision of inclusivity of Rockwell College through the immediate provision of residential boarding for girls effective September 2019. This will require support for the initial investment of €100,000 as stated on Page 6 : *Strategic Evaluation – Insource Girls’ Boarding.*

2. Approval for the upgrading of the boarding offering for boys

The boarding facility offered by Rockwell College fosters in a very obvious way a sense of community and an openness to the Spirit through the residential environment. It is only by investing in our facilities that the offering of boarding -which has been a fundamental part of the identity of Rockwell College throughout its history – can remain robust and viable, thus allowing pupils from outside Dublin and the local areas to experience Spiritan education. The upgrading of facilities and an improvement in the weekend programme is necessary to bring these boys in. The Board seeks Trustees approval for the investment of €100,000 as stated on Page 6 : *Strategic Evaluation – Upgrade Boys’ Boarding*.

3. A deferral of the License Fee payment in 2019-20 with repayment over the following five years

In order to carry out the above investment the Board requests SET approval to defer payment of the License Fee in 2019-20 and to repay the amount in full over the following five years. This scope in our Licence payment would allow us appropriate investment within this proposed strategy. This is identified on Page 5: *Projected Overheads – Detail* (under General Expenses)

4. Approval of changes to the current Fees:

The Board requests approval for a 2.5% Fee increase across all Fees and the gradual elimination of the Reduced Day Fee. These changes would come into effect for the 20-21 school year as the Fees for 19-20 were announced in October 2018. Those availing of the Reduced Day Fee would hold it and on Page 2 *Student Numbers, Mix & Revenues*, the phasing out of the Reduced day Fee and the increase in the Day Fee is noted, with 2.5% p.a. included.

Conclusion

The Board of Management thanks the SET for taking the time to consider the above proposals and remains committed to securing the educational mission of Rockwell College for many years to come.

Presented on behalf of the Board of Management of Rockwell College:

Audrey O’Byrne

Secretary, Board of Management.