



Spiritan Identity, Faith and Mission Office Report Board of Directors Meeting 28th September 2021

Faith and Mission School Resource

The Faith and Mission Resources have received positive feedback from all who received a copy. Feedback was received from school principals, RE teachers, DE lead teachers, teachers, Spiritan province members team, school chaplains etc... A copy of the resource is available for all board members or alternatively resources are also available online at

https://padlet.com/ronanbarry/set_2021_22_resources

Planning Meeting Maynooth.

Our planning webinar will take place in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth on Friday and Saturday the 8th and 9th of October. The three main areas we intend to consider are: Strategic Planning, School Financial Statements and the Status of our Junior Schools.

School staff presentations.

Ronan presented at three staff in-services on 'Characteristic Spirit' during August. Templeogue College's Senior and Middle Leadership team on 24th August, Willow Park junior School's Staff on 27th August and Rockwell college's Staff on August 30th. This allowed for engagement and discussion around understanding a Spiritan school in the context of a modern-day Ireland. The discussions were different in each setting but very rewarding for all involved.

Templeogue BoM.

The board is currently being guided by both the JMB and their legal advisers about a teacher in relation to garda vetting and the provision of a teaching Council number without which a teacher will not receive a salary. The matter will be before the High Court in October.

School Retreat Programmes.

The Retreat programme for 1st years (650 students) has now commenced. All schools were invited to participate. The programme is being held in An Tobar, Ardbraccan, Navan. The venue catered for indoor and outdoor spaces. Rockwell will have their retreat programme in the school. The team includes Paddy Moran CSSp, Angie Escara, (Columban Lay Missionary), Levis and Wilfred, (Both Spiritan students) and Paul Barnes. The areas of interest that are covered include, building community, meditation and prayer, confirmation, Visio Divina and Spiritan values. The feedback from the school chaplains and teachers, along with school principals on this programme was very positive. They were happy with the content and the overarching themes of faith and mission that are at the foundation of the programme.

Rockwell Fire Report.

The Fire safety Assessment report commissioned by the BoM of Rockwell College following discussions with the SET executive was issued to the board on the 29/06/21 and to the quantity surveyors on the 14/07/21. The BoM will now consider the 350-page report and decide on an annual figure to incrementally complete the works outlined by ACE Fire Engineering- Newbridge, Co. Kildare to ensure that the building is safe.

Lambert Chartered Surveyors, Ireland submitted a budget estimate on the 20/08/21 which is 458,000E.

Student Mentoring.

Ronan provided mentoring training in Holy Family Community School and Templeogue College in late August for the 6th year students who have been chosen for mentoring first years. The training day looked at areas around style of leadership, child welfare, school community and the values that underline good peer leadership.

Spiritan Mission Ireland- Migrant Teacher Programme.

The Migrant Teacher Project was brought to our attention by Spiritan Mission Ireland. Administered by the Marino Institute of Education, it aims to increase the participation of Immigrant Internationally Educated Teachers in Irish primary and post-primary schools. The project is co-financed by the European Commission under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 and is supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and the Department of Education. The project provides information, advice, and support through a variety of Bridging Programmes, seminars, and workshops.

SET proposes to support this programme by offering places in our schools for migrant teachers. The official programme intends to place teachers in schools for a two-week period- we hope to extend this to a full term and so create enhanced employment opportunities for these migrants. We will also consider how we might financially support these teachers and perhaps provide accommodation on Kimmage Manor campus- sharing the accommodation with Irish teachers. These proposals have been discussed with the director of the programme who is strongly supportive of them.

School Chaplaincy.

The proposed Part -Time Chaplain for Templeogue College has decided to take a full-time position in a community school. Unfortunately, this has meant we will have no chaplain in Templeogue College starting this September. To attract more personnel to an interview process it was decided to initiate a conversation with the parishes regarding, youth outreach in order to develop a full-time position. This conversation was welcomed by the parishes as well as Templeogue College. We are proposing to develop a job description of School Chaplain/Youth outreach. This is now in process with the backing of the school and the parish councils. It is hoped to finalise detail in the next while and advertise before the end of October.

SET's role in this process is to facilitate the conversation between Parish and School. Spiritan Mission Ireland will have some supportive presence as this project develops.

Appointment Appeal. Templeogue.

A teacher contacted the E.O. by e mail appealing the decision of an interview board of which the E.O was a member for not appointing him to a Post of Responsibility. The trustees do not have a role in this matter, and this has been communicated to the teacher.

School Speaking engagements.

During the forthcoming months, Ronan will facilitate the presentations for parents on sacramental preparation for Confirmation and First Communion in some of junior school and perhaps, Spiritan parishes.

'In the Footsteps of the Founders' initiative.

SET's Paris pilgrimage was researched as part of an academic inquiry that was completed as part of a Master's Course in Religious Education. The enquiry was

focused on the following question; How Does a Staff Pilgrimage which Explores the Founding Story of a School's Congregation Impact Understanding and Practice of Ethos?

The researcher was Adam Puszczewicz. The thesis research indicated the success of the initiative in engaging with teachers, school leaders around the area of Spiritan ethos.

We await word from the 'Mother House' with regards to restarting 'the footsteps of the founders' programme in the future.

SET New Teacher induction.

The proposed date is October 11th. The SET team will host this afternoon in the Talbot Park Hotel, Stillorgan. Teacher induction in Rockwell was completed in late August.

Annual meetings of Chairs, Principals and Deputy principals.

Above groups will meet in Kimmage manor on the 29th and 30th of this month. The agenda will address:

Special Education, Annual School Reports, Child Protection Protocols. Deputy Principal Conference—**Tom S.**

Retreats, Chaplaincy, Global Citizenship Education **Ronan**
Finance- **Tom J.**

Joint Trusts Middle Leadership.

A meeting of the 'Ethos officers' from the Joint Trusts took place in September to finalise the presentations for the Middle Leadership programme that address the areas of leadership in a Catholic school.

Development Education/ Global Citizenship Education.

Karen Jeffers our school liaison officer will be on maternity leave from November. However, Ronan will continue to work closely with the schools we prepare to meet and prepare for this year's showcase. This year the GCE programme will focus on Climate change and our response to it as well as the challenging issues and causes encompassing the Refugee and Migrant crisis.

Ronan has been invited to sit on Trocaire expert group in relation to the strategic planning of GCE with other faith-based organisations and NGO bodies.

Spirasi

A pilot programme will run this year between Spirasi and a number of the schools in the network. Involvement in this project will include Rockwell College and Templeogue College, as individual schools. Blackrock and St. Michaels are hosting a joint project. Willow Park Junior school is piloting the junior end of the programme. Carrie Benn (Spirasi) has prepared resources for our school. She has asked SET to review these resources. This review will be the work of the GCE teacher's committee. We will update the BoD as this process develops.

Deputy Principal Conference.

At a recent meeting of the four trusts: Spiritans, Jesuits, Le Chéile and Loreto it was agreed between Le Chéile and the Spiritans that we will hold a Deputy Principal Conference to further strengthen professional and personal contacts across and between our trusts.

It was agreed that the conference presentations must be cognisant of the fact that Deputy Principals will attend from both Secondary and Primary schools. The conference will take place on the 3rd and 4th of March in Mullingar.

Bursaries.

As in previous years, we have approved the payment of bursaries to a number of our teachers engaged in further professional education. This scheme was established to support teachers in the Spiritan school network pursuing a professional qualification which should enhance their contribution to the Spiritan school community.

Correspondence.

A letter received recently from the newly appointed CEO of APTCS, Dr. Eilis Humphreys has been uploaded to the Directors area of our website. The specific role of APTCS as described in this letter is to provide support to patrons and trustees in schools in matters of ethos, property, governance and compliance, policies, trustees' obligations, patrons' duties and financial matters.

A Forum for Patrons and Trustees will be held on 14th October in Dublin. Details will be circulated later. Dr. Humphreys is available to take calls at (087 0509227) should you wish to raise or discuss any issues.

