

Agreed Report Board of Management Meeting – 4th March 2026

A Board meeting took place in the school on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was opened by Chairperson Keith Dransfield. The opening prayer was led by Fr Keogh.

Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed and seconded.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Brian asked for clarification around letters of eligibility for special classes. Martin explained this.
- Admission Policy – Bishop approved it.
- After school club started in November.
- Solar Panels are connected.

Correspondence

Correspondence was read out

Correspondence

- Letters in relation to applications for staff leave and letters applying for staff job share for 2026/2027 school year were read out. Decisions were then made on those applications.
- Letter from Máire Kearney, thanking the Board for her gift.

Principal's Report

Principal's Report was presented. It included the details of enrolment, staffing, curriculum, ethos, extracurricular and fundraising. See some of the following details from the report.

Principal's Report 12/03/2025

November to March 4th

After the Halloween mid-term break we returned to school on Monday 3rd November. We had a busy run in to the Christmas. We then returned to school after Christmas on Monday 5th January. February mid-term was 19th & 20th February.

Enrolment

We currently have 189 pupils in the school. 189 is the same number that was on our system for 30th September 2025.

Staffing

- Teachers- 14 posts including the Principal being covered by 17 teachers and 10 EAL hours per week covered by 1 teacher.
- SNA's – 6 full time positions covered by 7 SNAs (one job share)
- Bus Escorts - 4 positions covered by 5 people.

Work Placement

- Two student teachers are currently on teacher placement. One started in January and will finish March 20th. The other TP student started on Monday 16th February and will finish on Friday 8th May. We also had a student teacher on placement from September to November.
- We had two SNA work placements during November, December and January.
- There are two Transition Year students on placement from Blackwater Community School this week and there were three Transition students on placement last week.

Trauma Informed Practice in Schools

The teachers and SNAs had training on Trauma Informed Practice in schools after school on Wednesday 4th February. The training was provided by Pdraig Dwyer who works for TUSLA and is a member of Tusla's Social Care team for Wexford and Waterford.

First Aid

Teachers and SNAs will have First Aid Training after school on Tuesday next, 10th March.

Child Protection Training

There are new guidelines to be implemented for Child Protection Procedures in schools. In this regard, James Casey and Martin Delaney attended training in WTC for Principals and Deputy Principals in September. Then the whole staff, teachers, SNAs, Bus escorts, cleaners and our secretary had Child Protection training here in the school on Monday 8th December. The school was closed to the pupils on the day. There is BoM training in the coming weeks.

Curriculum

New Primary School Curriculum

There is a new primary school curriculum currently being phased into primary schools in Ireland replacing the 1999 Curriculum. It started with the introduction of the new Language Curriculum (English agus Gaeilge) over the last few years which was followed by the Maths curriculum. We are receiving support from OIDE at different times throughout this year as we implement the new Maths curriculum throughout the school. We also had training on the new Primary School Curriculum itself on Monday 26th January in WTC. We will have a second day of training on the PLC on Monday 27th April. Schools are closed to pupils on those training days. The subject areas for the new PLC are

Language which covers English and Gaeilge but it also covers MFL for 5th and 6th classes.

STEM which covers Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

SESE which covers History and Geography.

Arts Education which covers Art, Drama and Music.

Religious/Ethical/Multi-belief, and Values Education- The Patrons Programme which would be our RE programme – which is Grow In Love.

Wellbeing- which covers SPHE and PE.

Just to come back to Modern Foreign Languages in the Language Curriculum

This year we signed up to Say Yes to Languages where a tutor comes in once a week for 10 weeks to teach a foreign language to 5th and 6th Class pupils. Ms Máire Kearney has come back in to be the tutor here and Máire teaching French. Máire has two weeks done and will be back in on Tuesdays for the next 8 weeks.

Library Visits

A number of classes also had recent visits to the library in Cappoquin.

Literacy & Maths Stations Literacy and Maths Stations are taking place across a number of different classes in the school with SET teachers going in to support classroom teachers for these.

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place tomorrow Thursday 5th of March where the children have the option of dressing up as their favourite book characters.

We distributed the World Book Day tokens (worth €1.50 per child) today. There is a Scholastic Book Fair running in the school this week.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Seachtain Na Gaeilge will run in the school from next next Monday 9th March until Monday 16th March. We will have a Lá Glas and an Irish Assembly/Ceolchoirm next Monday 16th March.

Music

Our school choir (comprising of children from 4th to 6th class) performed at Peace Proms in SETU arena Waterford on Sunday evening 25th January. It was a brilliant performance and the Cappoquin choir were excellent. A huge thanks Mrs Veale for all her preparation of the choir and thanks to Mrs Moore and Mrs Scanlan for helping with the rehearsals. Thanks to all three teachers and to Deirdre Cahill for giving up their Sunday to go the Peace Proms with the choir.

SESE (Social Enviromental & Scientific Education)

Anthony Galvin did a Heritage in Schools Visit on Wednesday 7th January teaching the children about aspects of World War 1 or the Great War through an Irish perspective.

SPHE

Teachers have been teaching the Stay Safe programme to their classes at the start of this second term.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to our two school teams who entered into the Credit Union quiz which took place in Dungarvan on Monday 9th February. Both teams performed well. Thanks to Mr Casey for preparing the teams and thanks to Ms Kiely for attending the quiz on the night.

West Waterford Cuman na mBunscol GAA & Sports Quiz

We also had two school teams enter the West Waterford Cuman na mBunscol GAA & Sports Quiz on Thursday 5th February. Again both teams performed well and enjoyed the quiz. Thanks to Mrs Hogan for helping out on the night.

Ethos

Catholic Schools Week was Sunday 19th to Saturday 24th January. Mr Casey organised a number of activities in the school that week including a visit from the Servant Sisters from Cahir. We postponed Grandparents Day until Tuesday 17th February. We invited in the grandparents of the 1st Class and the 5th Class children to come to visit their grandchildren at school. Children who didn't have a Grandparent available for the day were welcome to invite another adult along whether that be a parent and/or other relative. We had a great turnout for Grandparents' Day. Firstly, the grandparents went to the classroom or school library. The children participated in a prayer service led by Fr Keogh. There were then a few other activities, poems, songs and a question & answer session. Afterwards all the grandparents and the children went down to hall for some refreshments. Thanks to all the grandparents for coming in, thanks to Mary Flynn with help from Mary Casey and James Casey for preparing the hall and serving the teas/coffees. A big thank you also to Mrs Veale & Mrs Kiely for all their work in preparing the two classes. Thanks also to Mr Casey for organising and overseeing Catholic Schools Week here in the school. Sr Antoinette Dilworth, Diocesan Advisor for Waterford & Lismore Diocese visited all classes in the school on Thursday 26th February.

Sr Antoinette also met with parents of our Confirmation children on the evening of Tuesday 24th February and she met with parents of our First Holy Communion children on the evening of Thursday 26th February.

Confirmation will take place in Cappoquin on Thursday 26th March.

First Confession

The Enrolment Ceremony for the Communion Class took place on Wednesday 4th February at 10 a.m.

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 16th May

All classes attended Mass on Ash Wednesday, 18th February

Sport

Gaelic Games

Cuman Na mBunscol

Our 3rd and 4th Class children played a hurling and camogie blitz on the astro in BCS on Tuesday 17th February. They played against Tallow, Lismore and Ballyduff Upper.

We are due to play the hurling and camogie mini 7s in Lismore next Tuesday March 10th. The 15 a side competition in hurling and camogie for our senior classes will start in April.

Cappoquin GAA Club have organised GAA coaching in the school on Wednesdays. Tom Mansfield takes classes up until lunchtime and then Fintan Murray works with two classes after lunch.

Soccer and FAI 5 a side

The FAI primary schools 5 a side took place in Dungarvan today, Wednesday 4th March. We entered 2 boys' teams and 2 girls' teams. All 4 teams acquitted themselves well with our Girls A team winning their competition out today and qualifying for the County stage which will take place in Waterford in April.

Tennis

All classes had tennis with Shelley Mernin from Dungarvan Tennis Club on Fridays from January 9th until February 6th.

Badminton

On Wednesday 19th November 3 boys' teams and 1 girls' team participated in the schools Waterford Badminton Competition in Cappoquin. One of the boys' teams won their section out. That boys' team also played in the schools Munster Badminton Competition in MTU arena in Bishopstown on Wednesday 18th February. They reached the Munster semi-finals and lost out narrowly in that semi-final against Annascual. By reaching the Munster semis they qualified for the All Ireland Schools which took place in Baldoyle, Dublin today. The boys played 3 group games today and were very unlucky not to reach the quarter-finals. Thanks to Mary and Michael McGrath and Blackwater Badminton Club who organise everything on behalf of the school for the badminton competitions. Thanks to Darragh Wilkinson and Karen Whelan for attending the Munster Competition in Cork and thanks to Siobhan Denn and Anne Marie Uniacke for attending the All Ireland in Dublin.

Swimming

Le Chéile 1 and Le Chéile 2 have regular trips to the swimming pool in the Aura Leisure Centre Youghal during the first term and second terms.

Active Schools

For active schools we are focusing on the fundamental skill of jumping during March.

Fundraising-

A huge thank you to a number of different groups for fundraising for us in the last few months.

The Parents Association ran the Annual Super Valu draw in December. A huge thank you to the Parents Association for organising and running the rota selling tickets. Thanks to Kelleher's for their continued generosity with sponsorship of the prize of €500 and their top up of money raised.

Thanks you to the Murray family and their fundraiser in December for Le Chéile.

Likewise thank you to the Tidy Towns and Cappoquin Fire Brigade also fundraising for Le Chéile over Christmas. Kitty McCathy also made a donation towards Le Chéile in December.

This was the end of the Principal's Report.

Child Protection

Oversight Report was presented by Martin Delaney.

Bí Cineálta

Bí Cinealta Anti-Bullying Template D report was presented by Martin Delaney

Health and Safety

- Weekly battery checks of the defibrillator are being carried out
- Monthly checks on break glass units, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and RCBOs are being carried out.
- First Aid supplies have been checked and replacement supplies purchased.
- Whole School Fire Drill February 12th.
- Quarterly Service of the Fire Alarm System carried out by Guardian Fire Service Monday 2nd March

Car parking

Issues around car parking at the school in the morning times and in the afternoon home times were discussed. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation and to discuss it again.

Enrolment:

We have 30 children leaving this September 2026. The most we will have coming in at a push is 20. Therefore, based on the Department of Education's current staffing allocation numbers come September 2027 we will be less one full time teacher. This is a national problem especially in country schools with almost 6,500 less children enrolled in primary schools in September 2025 compared to September 2024. Nationally, the previous two school years had also seen relatively large declines in enrolment figures as well.

Attendance & EWO

Attendance was discussed.

Staff Allocation

There was an SNA review in the school last December. We hoped to gain or stay the same but we have not heard anything since that review and probably won't hear anything on it now. They have paused all SNA reviews for the minute and it looks like schools will continue to have the same allocation of SNAs for 2026/2027 school year.

Finance

The 2024/2025 school accounts were looked through and discussed. They will be signed off on and sent to the FFSU as required by all schools.
Martin presented the up to date financial figures as well.

ICT Internet Safety

Family Internet and Technology Use Agreement ready to be distributed to parents.

AP2 and ISM

ISM posts were discussed.

Plans/Policies

New Child Protection Policy.

Child protection training for BoM members in March. All Board members are requested to attend training.

Votes of Sympathy

- Maura Purcell – sister of Deirdre Buckley
- Paddy Halley – father of Cathy Halley

This concluded the meeting.