

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community December 2021

SSPS Inspection report

The report from the recent Department of Education 'Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling' (SSPS) inspection is now available on the School website. The School is deemed to be successfully meeting all required criteria in the safe provision of schooling in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. The inspector was very positive in her feedback in relation to all systems in place and on the support and cooperation of all school stakeholders which was evident during her visit.

Covid-19 Response

There was a pause in notifications from the HSE during October and November in relation to pupils/staff members testing positive for Covid-19. As and when these notifications are received, they will continue to be forwarded to the School community. Mask breaks have been introduced for 2nd, 4th and 5th year groups at the end of period 5 in consideration of these students having three lessons in succession in the afternoon. Lockers have been re-introduced for 5th and 6th year groups, requiring the purchase of additional three-tier locker units in order that these lockers could be provided in a socially distanced and safe manner. Staff substitution demands due to Covid-19 related absence continue to be closely monitored.

Mission statement

The task group will convene again shortly to complete its work, once consultation with the various school stakeholders has concluded. It is planned that a revised draft document will be presented to the Board in the new year.

Admissions

As per the School's Annual Admission Notice in respect of admissions to the 2022/2023 school year, applications for admission to first year closed on 29th October 2021. The School is oversubscribed for the forthcoming academic year. Applications have been processed according to section 6 of the Admission Policy (2020), with a lottery for remaining oversubscription categories overseen by an independent observer. A waiting list is in place and offers will continue to be made as places arise.

Hockey pitch

Both the pitch ballstop netting and the roadway boundary ballstop netting at the Rowanbyrn end of the hockey pitch has been replaced and/or repaired. Further expenditure will be required to replace the pitch curtain divider netting and the fencing at various points around the pitch.

Adult Education

An albeit reduced Adult Education offering taking place for a shortened term over November and December is welcome. It is hoped an extended offering can take place in term two and term three, based on the experience of term one and on guidelines issuing in the new year.

Outdoor seating

The School is engaging again with *Alan Meredith Studio* to design and install both new outdoor bench seating and also an innovative series of new outdoor single seats which can be adapted and imagined for a variety of uses. It is hoped the outdoor benches will be installed early in the new year, with the single seat project proceeding over term two.

Retirement

The Board wishes to acknowledge the work and contribution of cleaner Ms Teresa Walsh to Newpark over the last decade. The Board wishes Ms Walsh well on the occasion of her retirement.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Board acknowledges and congratulates all students, teachers and coaches for their participation in a great variety of extracurricular activities during term one. The Board notes and welcomes that all these activities will be celebrated in the forthcoming December issue of the *Newpark Newsletter*.

Department of Education circular letters since the last meeting of the Board:

Information note on Circular Letter 33/2021

As of 25 November 2021, revisions have been made to the inspection arrangements set out in Circular Letter 33/2021

[Information note on revisions to inspection arrangements](#)

End.