

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community April 2022

Covid-19 Response

The average number of absences reported due to Covid-19 related reasons has significantly decreased. Planning is in train for the roll back of remaining risk mitigation measures prior to the beginning of the academic year 2022/2023. This will include the return to teacher-based classrooms, the return of the school library, the reinstatement of the staffroom for full capacity, and the return to a single, non-staggered timetable (Grid 1 only). It is planned that classroom sanitiser spray for desks and chairs will remain available, along with classroom and corridor hand sanitiser and that CO₂ monitors, and ventilation will continue to be prioritised. All Covid-19 risk mitigation measures in the School will be reviewed in advance of the commencement of the school year 2022/2023, in light of Department advice and guidelines at that time.

Anti-Bullying Policy review

In line with Department of Education guidelines and with best practice, the annual review of the Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedure has concluded. The new policy is published on the School website and posted on the noticeboard in the School reception area. Written notification of the review has been sent to School personnel and to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the Patron and to the Dept. of Education.

Astro Pitch resurfacing project

The School, in partnership with Avoca Hockey Club, continues to plan for the resurfacing of the astro pitch, which was delayed by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This project is part funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under its Sports Capital Grant program. *SportsLabs Consult* has been engaged by the Club and School to project manage the works, and it is hoped the project will go to tender in the coming weeks.

Senior Cycle Review

The Board welcomes the recent announcements from the NCCA and the Department of Education in relation to the current review of Senior Cycle. The Board notes that the purpose of senior cycle outlined in the *NCCA Senior Cycle Review: Advisory Report 2022* aligns with the aims outlined in the School's recently updated *Mission Statement*. As the current reports set out a 'vision and program of work' on behalf of the Minister, which involve ongoing stakeholder engagement, consultation and consideration of conducive conditions, the Board looks forward to further direction and guidelines from the Department of Education in this important area of development.

Whole School Assembly and Graduation Services

The Board welcomes the return of an in-person Whole School Assembly for 2022 and of in-person 4th Year and 6th year graduation services. All events are due to take place in May 2022, and the Board is pleased that students and staff will have their many achievements and contributions duly recognised and celebrated.

Oral Language and Music Practical examinations

Leaving Certificate oral language examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages and music practical examinations took place successfully in the School during the Easter break, from Saturday 9th April to Thursday 14th April. There will be a small number of follow up examinations conducted for students who were unable to attend due to illness, as per SEC provision. Further practical examinations, LCA task assessments and LCVP examinations are due to take place in the School during May 2022. The Board acknowledges all involved in the successful facilitation of these exams.

Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations, June 2022

The Board wishes all students well in their forthcoming state examinations and hopes that all students who have prepared for examinations will be deservedly rewarded for their hard work.

Ms Lisa Marks, RIP and Mr Chris Henderson, RIP

The Board wishes to acknowledge the deaths of Ms Lisa Marks on 5th May 2022 and of Mr Chris Henderson on 3rd May 2022 and to extend its sincere condolences to both the Marks and Henderson families. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.

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

0013/2022 – Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2024
[gov.ie/en/circular/25edc-prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-english-examination-in-2024/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/25edc-prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-english-examination-in-2024/)

0014/2022 – Prescribed material for Junior Cycle English
[gov.ie/en/circular/65046-prescribed-material-for-junior-cycle-english/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/65046-prescribed-material-for-junior-cycle-english/)

0016/2022 – Employment of 3rd and 4th year undergraduate student teachers and the application of the ‘5-day rule’ on their employment from 15th February 2022 to 30th June 2022
[gov.ie/en/circular/b7d32-00162022/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/b7d32-00162022/)

0018/2022 – Information in relation to Standardised Testing and Other Matter – Academic Year 2021/2022 and Subsequent Years
[gov.ie/en/circular/af00c-information-in-relation-to-standardised-testing-and-other-matters-academic-year-202122-and-subsequent-years/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/af00c-information-in-relation-to-standardised-testing-and-other-matters-academic-year-202122-and-subsequent-years/)

0019/2022 – DEIS identification 2022: Appeals Process for Schools
[gov.ie/en/circular/7e7ca-deis-identification-2022-appeals-process-for-schools/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/7e7ca-deis-identification-2022-appeals-process-for-schools/)

0021/2022 – Special Education Teaching Allocation 2022/23 (post primary)
[gov.ie/en/circular/767cc-special-education-teaching-allocation-202223-post-primary/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/767cc-special-education-teaching-allocation-202223-post-primary/)

0023/2022 – Staffing arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for 2022/23.
[gov.ie/en/circular/5bf0a-staffing-arrangements-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-for-the-202223-school-year/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/5bf0a-staffing-arrangements-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-for-the-202223-school-year/)

0027/2022 – Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure – 2021/2022 School Year
[gov.ie/en/circular/e1f8e-grant-scheme-for-ict-infrastructure-20212022-school-year/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/e1f8e-grant-scheme-for-ict-infrastructure-20212022-school-year/)

End.