

# PRIMARY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

KILDARE & LEIGHLIN DIOCESE



SEPTEMBER 2018

## A WORD FROM THE TEAM

Dear Colleagues,

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais tar éis an samhradh.

We hope that you have had all had a restful, well-deserved break and are returning to work renewed and refreshed.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new principals and staff members as they begin their task of leading teaching and learning in our Catholic schools.

During a very brief address to the Irish bishops just before the end of his visit Pope Francis took the opportunity to emphasise the key role of Catholic Schools in the mission of the Church:

*'Catholic schools ...continue to play an indispensable role in creating a culture of faith and a sense of missionary discipleship. Genuine religious formation calls for faithful and joyful teachers who are able to shape not only minds but also hearts in the love of Christ and in the practice of prayer'*

May these words of encouragement and affirmation echo in all our hearts as we begin this new academic year.

Bryan, Camillus & Maeve

## MISSION 2018/2019

Each year we begin again the fulfilment of our mission which the Primary School Curriculum tells us is to:

- develop each child's potential to the full
- encourage a love of learning
- help children develop skills they will use all their lives.

In a Catholic School we build our mission on the sure foundation that Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything that we say, do and teach.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

A vital component of the mission of the Catholic School is Religious Education and how it is timetabled and taught in our schools. Developing a robust Religious Education Policy is a key element of this. A draft template has been distributed to all schools and is also available on the bottom left of the page at

<https://www.kandle.ie/resources/primary-resources/>.

Thanks to those who have already sent their RE Policy to Maeve. If you have not yet done so please ask your RE Coordinator to have it included for discussion at one of this year's staff meeting and get it approved by the Board of Management and returned to [maeve.mahon@kandle.ie](mailto:maeve.mahon@kandle.ie) as soon as possible.

## FSSU

The unit now has jurisdiction over the accounts of primary schools. They are available to help secretaries and treasurers with accounts at

<http://www.fssu.ie/primary/>

## CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 01 910 4020

Email: [primary@fssu.ie](mailto:primary@fssu.ie)

MAYNOOTH OFFICE:

FSSU, New House, St. Patrick's College,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 HW31

Copies of annual accounts are to be lodged with The Patron's Office annually.

## CHILD SAFETY STATEMENTS

Thank-you to all those schools that have returned their child safety statements. There are still a small number outstanding. Bryan will be making contact with these schools during September.

## SPORTS CAPITAL AND CLÁR GRANTS:

Congratulations to all those schools that have secured grants for developments in their schools through these programs. Some schools have been subjected to unfair pressure over the past months to have their premises open to the community on an unrestricted basis. **Boards of Management cannot accept this liability and the school insurance will not cover it.** It is also unfair on principals and staffs to have to supervise outside of school hours. There is a detailed memo available at: <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/guidelines-on-the-use-of-school-buildings-outside-of-school-hours.pdf>

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS BILL:

The school Admissions bill was passed in July 2018. The publicity surrounding the publication referred to the legislation preventing the enrolment of pupils on religious grounds. We are not aware of any school that has a baptismal certificate as a criteria for the admission of a child to school. It has never been advocated by the Patron in this diocese. The Minister has yet to sign the commencement order. Section 7 of the Act has most relevance to schools. It is available at <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/Legislation/Education-Admission-to-Schools-Bill-2016.pdf>

## CONTRACTS OF INDEFINITE DURATION:

A number of our principals have found themselves allocating a permanent position without competition, due the entitlement of a teacher to a CID during the past year. The entitlement to a CID is an evolving concept. Principals are advised to check <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/Teacher-Allocations/Teacher-Allocation/faqs-on-contracts-of-indefinite-duration-version-1-.pdf>. Please be mindful in the context of the current substitute shortage that if you give continuous employment for a period of up to two years and a day the teacher has the potential to be awarded a CID.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO BISHOP'S HOUSE:

Matters pertaining to schools are raised with members of the FDS team on a continuous basis. We are often constrained by the General Data Protection Regulations from communicating this to schools. It is policy and best practice that staff engaging with members of the public or parents of a particular school refer them to their local Board of Management as the statutory entity that runs the school. If the patron's office is cited to any member of the school team then please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification.

**GROW IN LOVE UPDATE:** Christine has been in touch with all schools re the delivery of the 5<sup>th</sup> Class Grow in Love Teacher Kits. They will be delivered to parishes at the end of next week. Priests have been asked to make arrangements to have them delivered to schools.



Help me to be a fine teacher, to keep peace in the classroom, peace between my students and myself, to be kind and gentle to each and every one of my students.

Help me to be merciful to my students, to balance mercy and discipline in the right measure for each student, to give genuine praise as much as possible, to give constructive criticism in a manner that is palatable to my students.

Help me remain conscientious enough to keep my lessons always interesting, to recognize what motivates each of my students, to accept my student's limitations and not hold it against them.

Help me not to judge my students too harshly, to be fair to all, to be a good role model, but most of all Lord, help me to show your love to all of my students. Amen.

*Olga De Juana is a Computer Science teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School located in Scarsdale, New York. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhoDfO3h5Hs>*



**Brother Camillus:** [cregan45@hotmail.com](mailto:cregan45@hotmail.com) 087 2244175 for Vetting concerns.

**Maeve:** [maeve.mahon@kandle.ie](mailto:maeve.mahon@kandle.ie) 0872373336 for all Staff Appointment Procedures, Redeployment Panels, Religious Education and Ethos Issues

**Bryan:** [Bryan@kandle.ie](mailto:Bryan@kandle.ie) 0833400141 for Building, HR and financial transactions and other concerns