



COLÁISTE BRÍDE



Coláiste Bríde Annual Report 2021 – 2022



Contents

Introduction	5
Mission & Vision.....	6
Mission Statement	6
Aim of Our School.....	6
CEIST Charter	6
School Context	7
Enrolment.....	7
Allocation.....	8
School Grounds, Building & Facilities	8
Additional Accommodation.....	8
ICT Infrastructure	9
Infrastructure Improvement Projects	9
Management Structures	9
Senior Management Team	9
Board of Management	10
Middle Management Team	10
Policies & Practices	11
Policies.....	11
Health & Safety.....	11
Child Protection & Vetting	12
Management Meetings	12
Finance	12



School Accounts	13
Trustee Directives.....	13
Links with Community.....	13
Parents' Council.....	13
Parent Support	13
School Newsletter	14
Open Night	14
Parish	14
Social Awareness	14
Faith Formation.....	15
Religious Education	15
Links with CEIST & Sisters of Mercy	16
DEIS	17
Coláiste Bríde Strategic Plan	18
Quality in Teaching & Learning	18
School Self Evaluation	18
Digital Learning Plan.....	19
Junior Cycle.....	21
Droichead	21
Broad Dimension of Education	22
Sport	22
"I am Worth it" Week & Healthy Active Week	22
Stand Up Week.....	23
Student Council	24
Student Supports	24



Pastoral Care	24
Special Educational Needs.....	25
Learning Support	25
Guidance and Counselling	26
National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy	26
Student Voice	26



Introduction

This Annual Report provides a summary of the operation of Coláiste Bríde throughout the school year 2021/2022.

Coláiste Bríde is a fantastic school founded by the Sisters of Mercy. We are fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and committed staff and a wonderful student body and acknowledge the contribution of each member of our school community in maintaining consistently high standards. Coláiste Bríde is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for girls under the trusteeship of CEIST, with an enrolment of 759 students in the school year 2021/2022. We operate an open enrolment system with the vast majority of students coming from the primary schools of Enniscorthy and the surrounding hinterlands. Coláiste Bríde is a school with an established tradition of excellence in all aspects of curricular and co-curricular performance. We consistently perform above the national average in state exams.

We believe that Coláiste Bríde is more than a school. It is a community of people, working together to provide all of our students with an education that prepares them for success today and into their future. Success is measured by the extent to which, each individual realises her full human potential, as a person made in the image and likeness of Christ. Throughout the year, we promoted academic excellence and the broad dimensions of education. We provided opportunities for students to think creatively, to work collaboratively and to develop spiritually. We endeavoured to ensure that students could foster their own human qualities, their social and emotional skills, and to enable them to live happy and healthy lives while making a positive contribution to society.

Mission & Vision

Mission Statement

We believe in the value of the Catholic School and in it seek to integrate growth in Christ with the cultural enrichment acquired through human knowledge and skills. Our response requires deep commitment and dedication to the implementation of our mission statement.

"We are working to promote a secure and caring community environment, where respect, responsibility and Christian commitment grow; drawing forth the positive potential of each individual."

Aim of Our School

To maintain a caring, stable environment where each student feels safe and secure.

To foster in each child a sense of respect and tolerance for herself, for others and for the wider community.

To encourage each student to take responsibility for herself, her learning and her property, and to instil in her an overall sense of honesty, loyalty and integrity.

To develop in each pupil her diverse talents and potential: Spiritual, Academic, Social, Physical, Creative and Emotional.

To recognise and reward effort and achievement, thus promoting a true sense of confidence and well-being.

CEIST Charter



Senior management made every effort in 2021/2022, to ensure that all decisions, policies and practices in Coláiste Bríde were guided by the vision and values of Catherine McCauley, the Mercy Philosophy of Education, the teaching of the Catholic Church and the core values in the CEIST Charter.

School Context



Enrolment

759 students were enrolled in September 2021, this was an increase from 741 students in September 2020. The enrolment profile for each year group was as follows;

1 st Year	129
2 nd Year	141
3 rd Year	136
Transition Year	99
5 th Year	122
6 th Year	132

Our closing date for enrolment to First Year in 2022/2023 was in October 2021. There were 220 applications for the 144 places available. Following the allocation to students under criteria's 1, 2 and 3 of our Admission Policy a draw was held to allocate the remaining places to students in our catchment area and a further draw was held to allocate places on a waiting



list. The large numbers of applicants to the school is a testament to how well thought of Coláiste Bríde is by students and parents in the hinterland of Enniscorthy.

Allocation

The total teacher allocation for the school in 2021/2022 was 56.92. In August 2021 two teachers were granted a Contract of Indefinite Duration.

School Grounds, Building & Facilities

Additional Accommodation

During the school year 2021/2022 the school's additional accommodation project was progressed. An online meeting took place with the Department's Building and Planning Unit to discuss the Stage 1 report which had been submitted to in June 2020. A follow up site visit took place in November when it was agreed that the design should be resubmitted with a number of major changes including the relocation of the main school entrance to the new building, an increase to the proposed two storey area and the addition of a second SEN classroom. The project was held up from this point until May 2022 as the school did not receive formal notification of the change to the schedule of accommodation until then. In addition to the 6 General Classrooms (5 Prefab replacement), 2 Science Labs, Computer Lab, Technology Room, Home Economic Room and SEN Base already granted, the new schedule includes a new school entrance and lobby, an additional SEN class, administration offices, four new toilet blocks, extension to the Lunch Hall and will also include a new music room, canteen kitchen and prayer room as the current rooms will be demolished to improve access. In August the Stage 1 report was resubmitted to take account of the changes to the schedule of accommodation.

ICT Infrastructure

A second set of mobile student devices was purchased in this school year.

Infrastructure Improvement Projects

During the summer of 2022 the school completed a major environmental and energy saving project by replacing all lights in the school with low energy LED builds.

Following a tendering process all existing long throw data projectors were replaced with ultra-short throw projectors during the summer of 2021.

During the 2021 year the school made an application to Wexford County Council for planning permission for the development of a synthetic playing surface and ball wall to replace the basketball courts. This installation was completed in January 2022 and is a great addition to the school's facilities.



During the summer of 2021 we replaced our old lockers with a new locker system; this is a managed locking system with lockers that are bigger and brighter.

A school decoration committee was formed in line with the school's strategic plan to plan and design a refurbishment of a toilet block and the painting of the school interior.

Management Structures

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management team of the school consists of Principal Kiera O'Sullivan and Deputy Principals Rose McConville and Niall Moynihan.



Board of Management

In October 2020 the three year term of our Board of Management came to an end and a new Board of Management was appointed.

The 2021/2022 Board members were;

- **Chairperson:** Colm O'Tiarnaigh
- **Trustee Nominees:** Emmet Boyne, Angela Long and Father Paddy Banville.
- **Teacher Nominees:** Eleanor Harpur and Louise Murphy
- **Parents' Nominees:** Jean Mernagh and Dervla Tierney

The BOM met six times from September 2021 to June 2022. The BOM acted in accordance with the Articles of Management for Voluntary Secondary Schools, the direction of the Trustees, CEIST and the guidance provided by the JMB.

Middle Management Team

For the 2021/2022 school year there was an allocation of seven Assistant Principal I Posts of Responsibility.

The school has also been allocated one post for Programme Coordinator at AP I level.

There are 10 Assistant Principal II level posts.

The Post of Responsibility Schedule for the 2021/2022 was as follows:

Assistant Principals I:

- 1st Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 2nd Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 3rd Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 5th Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- 6th Yr. Year Head & Uniform & Home School link
- School Development Planning/ Convenor of policy groups/Curriculum Review



- Teaching & Learning, Digital Learning, SSE

Assistant Principals II:

- Awards Night & Open Night & Public Relations
- Book Rental & Book Lists
- Digital Learning
- House Exams
- Inclusion
- Junior Attendance Monitor
- Junior & Leaving Cert Exam Secretary
- Senior Attendance Monitor

Policies & Practices

Policies

Policy review and development was on the Agenda for each BOM meeting. The following policies were reviewed and ratified by the BOM in 2021/2022;

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement and Review
- Critical Incident Policy
- Homework Policy

A review of the school's anti-bullying policy took place in October 2021. The outcome was communicated to parents and teachers.

Health & Safety

The following Health and Safety activities were conducted during the year:

- Fire Drills were conducted.



- Fire Exits were regularly checked.
- Emergency lighting was checked.
- Pre-opening and closing supervision is provided.
- Break-time and lunchtime supervision is provided.

The school's Health and Safety Statement was updated in August 2020 to include risks assessments associated with Covid-19.

Child Protection & Vetting

The BOM & Senior Management adhered to all guidelines & regulations with regard to Child Protection & Vetting. Child Protection/Bullying was on the Agenda for each BOM Meeting & the Principal reported on any Child Protection concerns that arose. A Child Protection Oversight Report was made at each Board meeting. A review of the Child Safeguarding Statement took place using the Department of Education Review Checklist. Both Parents and Staff were notified that the review took place.

During 2021/2022 the following was implemented;

- Vetting of new staff members.
- Vetting of all visitors to the school who engage with students.
- Child protection questions were asked of candidates in all interviews.
- The BOM completed its mandatory Annual Review of Child Protection Procedures.
- The BOM ratified the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Management Meetings

Each morning the senior management team met to review and plan.

Senior management held weekly meetings with the Care Team to support & develop practice.

Senior management also held weekly meetings with the school's Year Heads.

Finance



School Accounts

The BOM has a Finance Subcommittee and at each Board of Management meeting Dervla Tierney makes a report to the Board on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee.

The school accounts were forwarded to the auditors at the end of the financial year.

The BOM was satisfied that the school was in a financially sound position and a clear budgeting plan was in place.

Trustee Directives

Coláiste Bríde submitted its budget online to CEIST.

The school accounts were also submitted online to CEIST and the FSSU.

A reporting template for the school to advise CEIST on the accounts is completed following each meeting of the Finance Subcommittee.

Links with Community

Parents' Council

The Parents' Council AGM was held at the beginning of the school year. They conducted a successful fundraiser during the year with the proceeds used to provide study packs for students.

Parent Support

A number of information talks take place to support parents. To facilitate attendance by parents our Transition Year Information, 2nd Year Subject Choice, 5th Year Subject Choice and Incoming First Year parents' Talk all took place online through the Zoom platform.



School Newsletter

A Digital Newsletter was published during the school year. The newsletter was VSware mailed to all parents, emailed to those who have subscribed for it and is also published on the school's Twitter feed and website <http://www.colaištebride.ie/newsletter.html>.

Open Night

Our Open Evening is one of the highlights in our school calendar, it is an occasion in which our students get to showcase their talents and skills and to show to our visitors exactly what our school is all about. Our students, whether as tour guides or demonstrating in a classroom, are always wonderful ambassadors for our school and they are what makes our school so special. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 it was once again not possible to host an Open Night in the school.

We instead created a Virtual Open Night and held an online information talk to give incoming students a taste of life in Coláiste Bríde. The video was published for parents to access from our website at <https://www.colaištebride.ie/admissions.html>.

Parish

Father Paddy Banville, our school chaplain, was always available to the Senior Management team and the general school community throughout the year. He gave advice, visited the school and celebrated at each Liturgy.

Social Awareness

In keeping with our Mercy ethos and the CEIST core value of being Just and Responsible our students and teachers conduct several fundraisers throughout the school year for various charities and causes.

Faith Formation



Religious Education

All students had Religious Education every week in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Episcopal Conference. Religious Education was timetabled for two one hour classes per week for all year groups. All teachers who taught Religious Education in 2021/2022 were qualified to do so.

Faith formation was promoted through the following:

- Morning Prayer
- Opening of Year/Mercy Day Mass
- Advent
- Christmas Carol Service
- St. Brigid's Day
- Feast of St Blaise





- Ash Wednesday
- Retreats for all Year Groups
- Pope John Paul II Award
- Catholic Schools Week
- Fundraising for Charities

Links with CEIST & Sisters of Mercy

CEIST kept in regular contact with the school through;

- Regular correspondence with Mr Gerard Watchorn
- Forwarding the minutes of BOM meetings to CEIST
- Emails from CEIST Office
- Both the Principal and Deputy Principal attended Regional Network Meetings

The Sisters of Mercy keep in regular contact through;

- Correspondence & invitations from the congregation
- Attendance by members of the congregation at school liturgical events



DEIS

DEIS From September, we will be participating in the School Meals Programme. Food will be available from September, but the DEIS grant will not be received until January. Fresh Today are the meals supplier; they were the only company who submitted a tender. They will provide three meal choices daily to students, including vegan/vegetarian options. The Board queried the expected increase in rubbish and waste. Kiera O'Sullivan explained that it will be a learning process and certainly an issue for Green Schools going forward. The company will offset part of the increased costs by donating 10, 000 to the school. Leftover food is donated to Wexford People helping People and other charities in the local area. Ultimately, this will be a very positive move for the school. We are still learning what it means to be a DEIS school. The biggest short-term move is the appointment of Eleanor Harpur as our HSCL- Home School Community Liaison coordinator. Eleanor Harpur was congratulated by the Board on her appointment. Being DEIS also means that the school's book grant has increased. This has immediately been passed on to students.



Coláiste Bríde Strategic Plan

In the 2021/2022 academic year we began to work on the actions and targets of our School Strategic Plan under each of the pillars below.



Some of the Strategic Plan Year 1 projects completed included One Hour Class Trial, TL21, Teaching & Learning Focus Group, Homework Policy Review, Study Skills Workshops, Astro Pitch & Hurling Wall, Student & Staff Wellbeing Days and Green Schools Committee.

The full plan can be accessed on our website at <https://www.colaistebride.ie/strategic-plan.html>

Quality in Teaching & Learning

School Self Evaluation

During the academic year 2020/21 we continued to work on the targets and actions of our last improvement plan. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not introduce any new targets, focusing instead on embedding the outcomes of our previous actions. The outcomes of our previous improvement plan have included the following:

- We developed our teaching with Learning Intentions & Success Criteria.
- Teachers further developed their collective and collaborative practice through Peer Observation and the use of Office 365 to facilitate both collaborative planning and professional dialogue.
- We expanded the use of Office 365 with students and staff.



We continued to develop teachers' collective practice through expanding the use of Office 365 to support remote Teaching and Learning as well as facilitating both collaborative planning and professional dialogue. Collaboration within subject departments for planning, in particular planning for remote Teaching and Learning, also continued. There was an emphasis on designing and sharing of resources and methodologies that would be suitable for use in an online/virtual learning environment.

Our actions involved the following:

- Dedicated Subject Department meetings as part of Croke Park hours.
- CPD events were organised, including whole staff CPD days & individual subject cluster meetings.
- Our Digital Leaders provided ongoing CPD in Office 365, concentrating on OneNote and Teams (Setting up Class Meetings and Assignments) and online subject department collaboration.
- All first year students were taught a module of IT to include Office 365 in Wellbeing.
- All TY students were taught a module on Office 365.

Additionally, all teaching staff were provided with dedicated one-to-one support and CPD on IT and Office 365, facilitated by our Digital Leaders

Digital Learning Plan

Working with our school's overall Digital Strategy, in 2020/21 we continued to embed and enhance the digital skills of our staff and students that had been developed in previous years. The move to Remote Teaching in January 2020 necessitated an unprecedented advancement of digital technical skills of both staff and students. This involved the expansion of our Digital Learning Plan but also enabled us to move further towards realising our digital learning vision: ***Where all students and teachers would become capable and confident in the use of digital technologies to support teaching and learning.***

In January 2022 we became one of the first schools in Ireland to receive the prestigious European Digital Schools Award. The award encourages and recognises innovation, collaboration, and skills development in the digital sphere.

With support from the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme, leading technology companies such as HP and AMD, and a number of national education agencies, it is the only initiative of its kind in Europe and is aimed at providing pupils with the skills they need to flourish in the modern world. A total of 100 secondary schools in five European countries took part in the pilot programme, with just 79 receiving the top award, which is a massive endorsement for the Enniscorthy school.



To achieve European Digital Schools status, schools must use the European Commission's SELFIE self-reflection tool to assess their digital learning and teaching practices and identify areas where improvements can be made. They can then access a range of expert support and resources to help them develop their digital curriculum in line with industry best practices. To achieve the reward the school submitted examples and evidence of best digital practice under the following seven areas: Leadership; Collaboration and Networking; Infrastructure and Equipment; CPD; Teaching and Learning; Assessment and Student Digital Competence.

Our 2021/2022 Digital Learning Plan is available to view on our website.



Junior Cycle

The 2021/2022 school year saw further implementation of the new Junior Cycle. During the school year Coláiste Bríde closed to facilitate two Junior Cycle training days for teachers, a whole staff workshop on Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Reporting (TLAR) and a further round of subject cluster days.

Droichead

Droichead, (the Irish word for bridge), is the National Induction Programme for newly qualified teachers (NQTs). The programme includes both school-based and additional professional learning activities to address the needs of NQTs as they begin their careers in teaching. One of our school's teachers, Niamh Duggan, is a Droichead associate.

Creative Cluster

German teacher Maria Whitty was successfully in her application along with Presentation College, Carlow and Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown for Department of Education Creative Cluster funding.

Creative Clusters is an initiative of the Department of Education and Skills, led by and in partnership with the local Teacher Education Centres. The purpose and aims of Creative Clusters is to demonstrate how creative practices can support clusters of schools to work together to address common learning challenges over a two-year period.

Our project will run from 2021 to 2023 under the title of "A Musical Odyssey Through German-speaking Countries."

Broad Dimension of Education

In Coláiste Bríde we have always offered a very wide range of activities outside the classroom in to promote the holistic development of the students. The breadth of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities was reported to the BOM in each Principal's Report. Unfortunately, due to the health and safety advice from the Department of Education we were unable to offer the range of activities that we would have done.



Sport

As Coláiste Bríde is committed to the holistic development of each student we positively support and actively encourage the provision of sporting activities outside the classroom. Sporting extracurricular activities provide fun, enjoyment and fulfilment for those who take part in them. They offer an outlet for energies and talents not always recognised in the classroom. In particular students develop teamwork, leadership and social skills. We believe that sport is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of rounded individuals.

"I am Worth it" Week & Healthy Active Week

Although well-being is at the core of all that we do in Coláiste Bríde, each year we have two distinct weeks that are dedicated to promoting students' well-being. In December 2021 we

held our annual “I am Worth it” positive mental health week. The week is a promotion of mental well-being and a celebration of the “I am Worth it” booklet and website which our Student Council developed in 2016. During the week a range of activities and events took place including talks, workshops and lunchtime activities.

Due to the school closure unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual Healthy Active week.

Stand Up Week

In November 2021 we held our second Stand Up Awareness Week celebration. While we always strive to be an inclusive school, our Stand Up Awareness Week was an opportunity for our whole school community to say that we are joining together to take a collective stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. This very successful week was organised by a student committee with lots of whole school activities taking place and was fully engaged in by all staff and students. The climax of the week was our rainbow colours day on the Friday, a day in which each year group wore a different colour of the pride flag.



Student Council

Student Council elections take place at the end of each school year in preparation for the next academic term. A one-day training course took place in October facilitated by the Student Council Liaison Teachers Nicholas Cullen and



Stephen Barry. Meetings were held at least twice monthly. In Coláiste Bríde all members of the school community are supported and encouraged to make meaningful contributions to decision-making. A key part of this is our Student Council which is a vital representative structure for students, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and the students.

Student Supports

Pastoral Care

Coláiste Bríde is committed to the ongoing development of the Pastoral Care of all students in the school. Pastoral Care integrates the academic, social, personal and religious dimensions of the school's educational endeavours. Our Pastoral Care supports help to provide an orderly atmosphere and firm framework which will allow the students to get maximum benefit from their schooling and prepare them realistically for life as adults.

We plan for this caring approach by assigning to each junior class a Year Head, Assistant Year Head and Class Tutor.

The Year Heads provide the administrative support necessary to ensure that the pastoral care structure functions effectively. They co-ordinate the caring structure by meeting subject and class teachers regularly to discuss and evaluate students' development. They meet individual students and classes regularly and encourages a high standard of work and behaviour.



The Assistant Year Head supports students by tracking academic progress and monitoring attendance. This information is used to ensure that all students reach their academic potential.

The Class Tutor provides a supportive caring role to students. They support their students' wellbeing in weekly Pastoral Care classes. They monitor the educational progress of each student by checking their journals regularly. The Class Tutor motivates their class to achieve their highest possible standards

Special Educational Needs

Our Special Educational Needs team oversees the provision of the best possible planning, care and resource provision for students with special needs.

The SEN team consists of

- Louise Murphy (SEN Coordinator)
- Niamh Duggan (Learning Support Coordinator)
- Orla Foley (SEN Teacher)
- Specialist teachers with resource hours
- Special Needs Assistants
- Classroom teachers
- Guidance Counsellor
- Year Heads
- Senior School Management

Learning Support

Key aspects of the provision of Learning Support are summarised below;

The Total Special Education Teaching Allocation for 2021/2022 was 134.63 hours.

Following an appeal to the Department of Education the school was granted .64 hours for teaching EAL/English as an Additional Language students.

The school was also allocated 3.5 SNAs for the school year 2021/2022.

Weekly meetings take place for the Core Team of Learning Support Teachers.



Guidance and Counselling

The Guidance and Counselling service in the school is concerned with the personal and educational development of students. The service of our counsellor, Aisling McDonald, is available to assist students in making career choices and to provide individual counselling.

Pupils may go to the counsellor to request an appointment.

Management have continued to support the guidance provision in the school by the provision of a greater number of hours to guidance than allocated.

Under the guidance of Aisling McDonald the school is reviewing and updating our whole school guidance plan.

National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy

In 2021/2022 we continued our involvement in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NITRIS). This pilot programme aims to improve participation and educational outcomes for Travellers and Roma in four districts, one of which is Enniscorthy. Our engagement in the programme has resulted in the school being supported by a home school liaison officer, social worker and both a Roma and Traveller educational support worker.

Student Voice

The Sixth Year Head Girls, the Student Council and the Meitheal team provided excellent support for students throughout the school year.

Both the Head Girls and the Student Council under the guidance of Stephen Barry and Nicholas Cullen provide a link with school management as the voice of the general student body.