

RETNS Board of Management Meeting, 9th January, 2017 - Report to the School Community

Happy New Year and welcome back from the BoM.

Website: The website is a vital school resource and requires improvement. The BoM is therefore planning an upgrade. We would be delighted to hear from any parents or guardians who have relevant expertise and are willing to offer a bit of time to help. Please email bom@retns.ie.

School Development: The BoM finalised a staff survey on school development issues, to be conducted shortly. We encourage those who have not done so to complete the Parents and Guardians survey, circulated by email last week. The RETNS Development Committee will hold its second meeting on Tuesday 24 January. The committee has generated many new ideas, which are now to be prioritised and taken forward. Thanks to all concerned.

Educate Together Second-Level Schools: The Chairperson reported on ongoing discussions with the Educate Together national office and representatives of the new ET Second-Level schools, due to open in 2018 in Firhouse and Dublin South City. We are making the case that where schools are oversubscribed, priority should go to students of ET primary schools.

School Finances: RETNS remains short of funds and has made further efforts to reduce costs and collect tax rebates on voluntary contributions.

School Plan: The BoM considered ongoing work on a revised PE curriculum plan and a new ICT plan, as part of the updating of the overall school plan. RETNS has received the first of a series of new ICT grants. Priorities for upgrading our ICT systems and opportunities for using the grant efficiently were discussed.

Enrolment: First offers of places in Junior Infants 2017 are being sent out this week. The RETNS Enrolment Policy will be strictly applied when allocating all places. The policy is posted on the school website alongside a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The FAQ provides additional information and helpful statistics on enrolment in recent years. Note that the FAQs are best viewed on a computer rather than a mobile device.

Class size: The BoM decided that the class-size in 2017 will be 28, as in recent years.

School Policies: The BoM made progress on its review of the Administration of Medicine and Critical Incident policies. Reviews of the Data Protection, Employment, Sport and Play policies are also underway.

Health and Safety: A new school safety assessment and accompanying action list is nearing completion. The assessment will be posted on the school website.

The BoM also considered some routine matters, which for reasons of confidentiality are not included in this report.

RETNS Board of Management (bom@retns.ie).