



School Improvement Plan

2020 • 2023





Welcome to the Rosses Community School

“Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí”

**“The true aim of education is to cultivate
what is native to the soul”**

Welcome to our updated school plan which has engaged and sought the views of all our stakeholders. Close to 100 students and 150 parents and staff have engaged in this review and all our stakeholders were given the opportunity to give their views.

This process was initiated and completed during the process of “lockdown”. The pandemic has been a very sad time of loss for many across the globe and we extend our sympathies to all. It has also brought an opportunity to reflect and review what we do in school and out of school.

The following document lays out the work being done and also being proposed, to ensure the culture of school self evaluation and reflection continues for the time to come. We have built a reflective and solutions based school culture over the last 10 years and we will continue to do so. Always striving for best practice in all areas of school life. We look forward to the continued growth and development of our young people.

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We are delighted to share our new school improvement plan for 2020 - 2023 with you. Over the last number of months, we have been gathering feedback from all of our school partners as we try to to develop our strenghts, talents and strive to reach our full potential. We are very proud of what our previous plan has achieved; major refurbishment works, the development of our Sruth Gaelach and the continued development of teaching and learning at the school.

Collaboration with all of our partners is key in the success and development of our school. We would like to thank all of our students, parents and staff who have participated in our surveys and provided feedback to allow us to continue to develop our school plan and improve the experience of our school community.

We commit to always work in the best interests of our students and to promote their educational, personal and spiritual wellbeing in as harmonious and conducive an atmosphere as possible.

We hope that all students at the RCS have the courage to be themselves, to recognise their unique talents, to be ambitions and creative, to see their value in our school community and beyond.



John Gorman
PRINCIPAL



Dáire Gillen
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mission Statement

Pobalscoil na Rosann is committed to an education which reflects our Gaelic and Christian traditions where each individual is encouraged to realise his / her full potential in an environment of trust and mutual respect.



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

Core Values

Respect

—

Encouragement

—

Collaboration

—

Kindness

—

Accountability

—

Celebrate achievement

—

Student Centered

—

Best Practice

—

We always get back up

The Rosses Community School operates through reflective practice and reflective approach to all aspects of school life.

The Rosses Community School operates a solutions based approach to all aspects of school life.

The Rosses Community School strives for best practice in all aspects of school life.



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

School Progression

We value the individual and support their journey:

2019

70% - 3rd Level
7.25% - World of Work
7.25% - Gap Year
4.35% - PLC
5.80% - SOLAS
1.45% - Navy
1.45% - Repeat
2.55% - Deferred Place

2018

72% - 3rd Level
23% - Apprenticeship
5% - World of Work

2017

85% - 3rd Level
10% - Apprenticeship
5% - World of Work





Rosses Community School

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School Progression

Leaving Certificate 2016	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	20
300-400	42
200-300	27
150-200	11

Leaving Certificate 2017	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	28
300-400	26
200-300	29
150-200	17

Leaving Certificate 2018	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	21
300-400	39
200-300	30
150-200	10

Leaving Certificate 2019	
Points	% No. Students
400-600	20
300-400	36
200-300	38
150-200	6

- Over the last 4 years our school has conducted research on the sustainability of students from the western seaboard and their retention in 3rd level post 2nd year.
- The drop out levels in 3rd level are significant from all feeder schools in university and the IT's.
- As a result we have focused on the apprentice model alongside the 3rd level university and IT sector.
- Developing pilot programmes to encourage more students to consider the apprentice option.
- Until 2017 our average progression was 85% to third level, 5 -8% to apprentice.
- In the 2018 the stat has changed to 72% university and IT and 23% apprenticeship.

"It is vital that we as school reflect the needs of our students in preparing them for the wider world and provide pathways to sustainable training and jobs."



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

Introduction

- The previous school improvement plan was developed between 2018-20 in conjunction with consultants PINTA, as a response to the Department of Education circular on School Self Evaluation.
- School Board of Management and senior management agreed to employ experts in the field of organisational improvement to embed the skills in the organisation and to allow the school stakeholders to execute an ambitious and comprehensive plan.
- It has been reviewed as part of the most recent MLL by Inspector Oliver de Burca. Good practices in terms of committee meetings and action planning coming from those meetings has led to significant school improvement.
- This mechanism is used periodically and annually to reflect on ongoing and dynamic school progress.
- The committees meet on a periodic basis, to focus on achievable and impactful goals.
- Meetings are called by the Chairperson and 1 to 2 actions, emanating from those meetings to be acted on by key members of the committee.
- The desire is to have different members of each committee leading different action plans and that they will possess the appropriate skillset to do so.
- The plan is being constantly reviewed and is agile to adapt to school needs.
- This is the 4th cycle of such planning in the Rosses Community School. It is closely aligned to the DEIS action plan in conjunction with school self evaluation.
- All key stakeholders are regularly consulted in relation to these action items. This happens periodically and annually. This is conducted by senior management team and home school. This involves workshops, online surveys with teachers, parents and students, both in creation of the new plan but also in reviewing the existing plan over the 3 year cycle.
- The new plan is a continuation of the 2018-20 plan and the positive feedback from the MLL and subsequent subject inspections.
- The DEIS status of the school is reflected throughout this particular plan and the committees are set up in such a way that they tie in to the work of the DEIS committee and the overall strategies in line with DEIS.
- The plan is always reflective in nature and operates a solutions based approach to all actions.



Rosses Community School

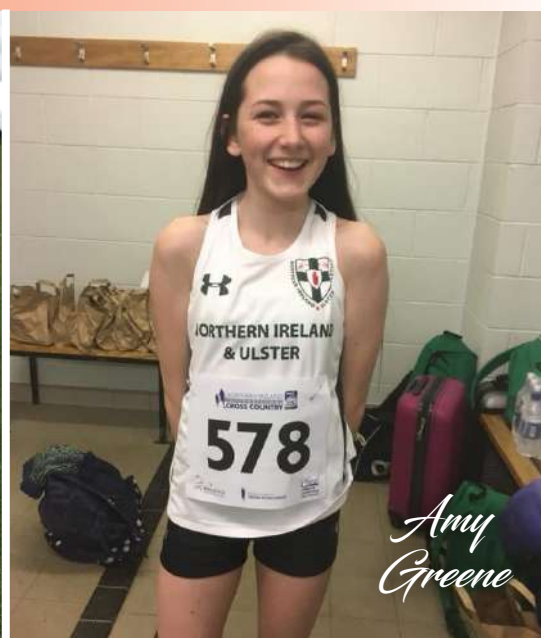
School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023



Patrick McGarvey



Tara Geoghegan



Amy Greene



*Odhran McGonagle, Brendan Boyle
Et James Hartnett*



Dylan Traynor



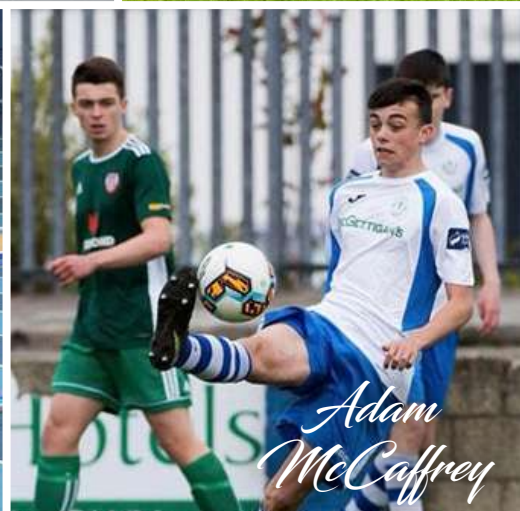
*Dean Timoney Et
Ryan Brennan*



Donal Walsh



Amy Timoney



Adam McCaffrey



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

Key highlights of School and Deis plans 2019 & 2020

- Work beginning on major new building development providing up to 12 new purpose built rooms.
- Classroom and social areas refurbishment.
- Provision of new seating areas.
- Gym and sportshall refurbishment.
- Bealach Na Rosann daily exercise initiative with Dr Niall Moyna.
- Introduction of PE and Computer Science as new leaving Cert subjects.
- Progression and attainment rates for 3rd level and apprenticeships at 95%.
- Increased enrolment, teacher and SNA allocation for 2020/21.
- Erasmus programmes with over 8 mainland European state schools and programme in excess of €50,000.
- School meals programme and Irish Heart foundation award for canteen facilities.
- Award of 8 bursaries for Leaving Cert students entering 3rd level programmes.
- Gold Award for innovative schools by TESA.
- All students and staff using the google platforms and using the chromebook hardware by 1st Sept 2020.

Committees

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Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

1. Management & Leadership Committee

Chairperson: Dáire Gillen

PRO: John Gorman

- Patricia Graham
- Dearbhla Fox
- Maureen Conlon
- Mary McLoughlin
- Ragnall Quinn
- Tony Forrestal

Management & Leadership

	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	Staff wish list - annual reflection	Annually	Principal & Deputy
2.	Timetabled Year Head/ Pastoral Care Meetings Timetabled SEN Dept meetings	Weekly Weekly	Deputy Principal
3.	Post holder reports	Weekly, Quarterly Annually	Principal
4.	Policy Development and reflection	Annually	Board of Management/Deputy
5.	Periodic Budget Review and reporting	Monthly/Annually	Board of Management, Management, Clerical & Finance Comm
6.	Applications for capital funding programmes	Annually	Management, Infrastructure Comm & Board of Management
7.	1/2 major fundraising events a year	Bi-Annually	All staff
8.	CPD programme and development	Ongoing	Board of Management, Management & Post Holder
9.	Gaeltacht recognition scheme	Ongoing	Pleanala Teanga Committee

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Lockers for Junior Students on trial basis
- IT induction for 1st Years - G Suite carried out in modular form by teaching/Sna team
- Annual report from each committee to parents with our summer term newsletters
- Model introduced to track student progress and performance over six years - to be analysed by each teaching group..VSware or alternative solution
- Look at alternatives to information evenings - Coffee Mornings, Online information evenings, virtual fairs
- Try novel ways of engaging parents who are unavailable to attend in person - Google Meet, virtual fairs
- Off site visits to other schools as part of peer mentoring and in line with current classroom peer visits.
- Formal fortnightly scheduling and recording of subject meetings for alignment purposes





Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

2. Teaching & Learning Committee

Chairperson: Tara Duddy

PRO: Joanne Doherty

- Sara Laughlin
- Ragnall Quinn
- Claire Gallagher
- Agnes Cannon
- Kevin Boyle
- Carleen Gallagher
- Jason Gallagher
- Nuria Aguilo
- Lorraine Coyle
- Mary McLoughlin
- Pauline McGill
- Fiona Timoney

Teaching & Learning

	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	Virtual learning platforms/ Hardware development - Wi-Fi and Chromebooks	Ongoing	Ragnall Quinn & Management
2.	Motivational speakers - students and staff	Quarterly	T&L Committee & Management
3.	Healthy eating programme	Annually	Green schools committee
4.	Anti bullying week Annually	Annually	Dáire Gillen
5.	RSE policy and programmes to be developed	Annually	Pastoral Care & senior management
6.	Alumni careers supports & engagement	Ongoing	Career Guidance
7.	JCT inservice and development	Ongoing	All Staff
8.	Demo Days and peer mentoring – class visits	Quarterly	T&L Committee & Principal
9.	Numeracy moments	Ongoing	JCSP - M McLaughlin
10.	Dyslexia Group	Weekly	SEN - Deputy
11.	Gifted and Talented programme and events	Weekly	G&T Committee & Principal
12.	Development of Google classroom	Quarterly	T&L Committee
13.	Pilot Physics Project	2018	John Gorman

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Teacher tutorial videos for students to help them revise at home - as alternative to notes
- Focus on improving IT skills of the students.
- Chromebook policy review and usage effectiveness study
- Homework policy review
- Standard approach to class sets and chromebook usage balance
- Teachers to continue with Peer Visits & Demo Days & modelling of good practice
- RSE plan and activities to be developed and a sub-committee and post holder lead to be established
- 'How to help your child with Maths' and other subject topic workshops
- Career based speakers commitment to have 3 per year per subject area both in person and virtually.





Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

3. Partnership with Parents & Others Committee

Chairperson: Moya Curran

PRO: Dearbhla Fox

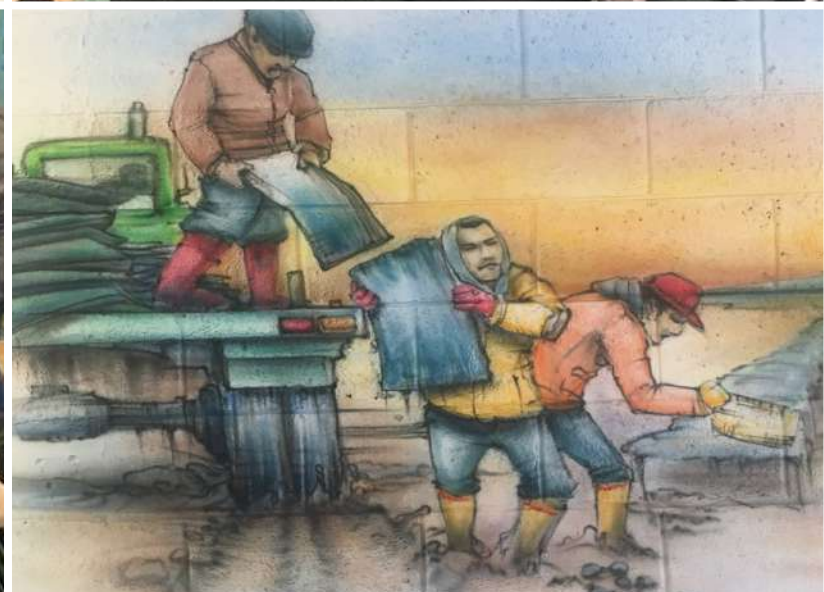
- Patrick O'Donnell
- Bridgeen Doherty
- Ellen Scally
- Suzanne Gallagher
- Michelle Gallagher
- Sara Laughlin
- Gavin Ward
- Anna Marie McCready

Partnership with Parents & Others

	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	Parental access to school Admin system – VSware	Ongoing	Senior management & clerical staff
2.	Develop Role of Prefects/Student Council/Mentors	Annually	Year Heads & Maureen Conlon
3.	RCS Newsletter/SSE reports	Quarterly	Senior management, Clerical & Claire O'Donnell
4.	Alumni success stories - "6 things I have learned"	Annually	Career Guidance, Principal & Post Holder Patrick O'Donnell
5.	Junior Achievement Ireland (project management)	Annually	Management & Post Holders
6.	Schools Business Partnership - LYIT, Pramerica, Optum etc	Ongoing	Moya Curran
7.	School Facebook Page & Twitter Account developed	Ongoing	Dáire Gillen, Raghnaill Quinn, Committee PRO's
8.	Parents Network	Ongoing	Senior management, HSCL, Year Heads
9.	Business pathways programme with NUI universities Pathway, Junior Achievement	Annually	Senior management, JCSP, SCP, Junior achievement,
10.	Local History Projects	Annually	History Department
11.	Parent Courses	Winter Months	HSCL
12.	UL - TY career investigations programme / Career Decisions	Annually	Principal and Career/TY Co-ord
13.	Culturlann na Rosann	Ongoing	Irish Department & Pleanála Teanga Committee
14.	Careers Forum	Annually	Career Guidance, Senior management, Year Heads, Moya Curran/Helena Cunningham
15.	Pioneers / Substance abuse awareness	Annually	Chaplain / Pastoral Care
16.	Information document for parents re homework & attendance	Annually	Career Guidance, Year Heads, Comm.
17.	One Significant adult mentors	Ongoing	All teachers/ Pastoral care
18.	TESA Entrepreneurial School Awards	Annually	Management

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Parental involvement and attendance at our annual Careers Fair, parents group to support and plan the initiative
- Parent training on VSware & Google and training videos to be established
- Develop Subject Open Day for parents/students
- More comprehensive termly reports with an individual focus
- Privacy at Parents evening - Teachers will be in separate rooms or smaller areas. - Committee to develop the logistics of this.
- Active recruitment campaign to get more parents involved in school life.
- 'How to help your child with Maths' and other subject specific workshops





Rosses Community School

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4. Student Attendance, Attainment & Retention Committee

Chairperson: Tony Forrestal

PRO: Julia Gribben

- Dearbhla Fox
- Kevin Boyle
- Helena Cunningham
- Mairead O'Brien
- Bridget Marry

Student Attendance, Attainment & Retention

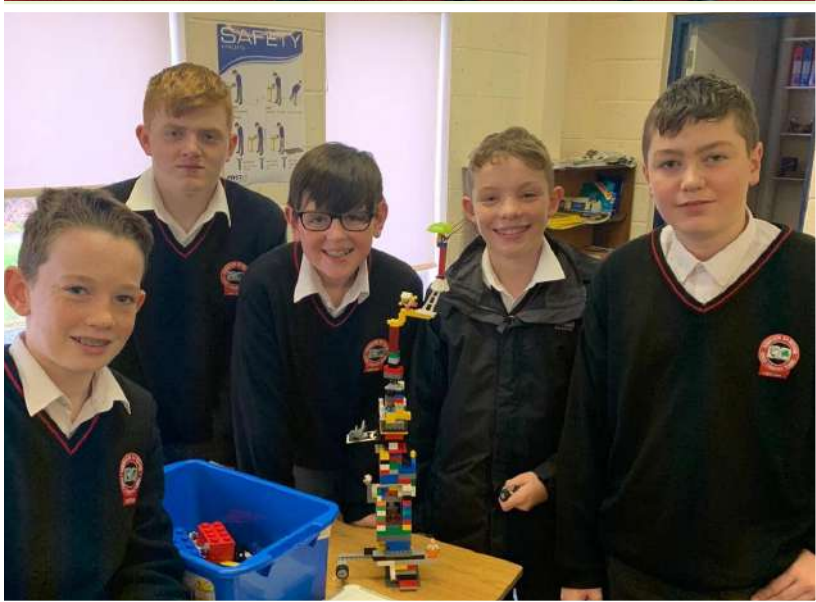
	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	Mentoring by past pupils / Classroom based careers visits	Annually	All subject departments
2.	DEIS Action plan implemented	Annually	DEIS committee & senior management
3.	Student Induction 1st years	Annually	Deputy Principal, SEN, Career Guidance, Year Heads
4.	Development of Literacy & Numeracy Policies & Strategies	Annually	SCP, DEIS, JCSP
5.	JCSP & SCP Initiatives	Ongoing	JCSP & SCP coordinators
6.	Survey's re contentment at school	Annually	Year Heads, Pastoral Care & HSCL
7.	Study Skills Programmes	Annually	Year Heads, Career Guidance
8.	IT strategies in classroom & homework aids	Daily	Raghnall Quinn/T&L Committee
9.	Career Decisions	Annually	Career Guidance
10.	Teacher Induction & Mentoring - NIPT	Ongoing	NIPT committee
11.	Study mentors for seniors	Annually	Year Heads
12.	P/T meeting Reflection and Action Plan	Annually	HSCL
13.	Peer observation	Annually	T&L Committee
14.	Attendance strategies	Annually	Attendance officer/senior management/Deis Comm.
15.	Subject sampling	Annually	Induction team
16.	JCT Inservice	Ongoing	Senior management, all staff
17.	Merit awards and more celebratory occasions to award good practice	Ongoing	Year Heads, Pastoral Care
18.	Resource class profiles / workshops	Daily	SEN Department

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Improved attendance records and system overhaul for same
- PC, SEN and Yearhead periodic review and action plan on monitoring of attendance data
- Incentives for good attendance and celebration events as directed by PC/SEN and Yearheads
- Subject sampling in first year and TY with relevant programme of events
- Periodic celebration events for student achievement



TechnoTeachers awards night





Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

5. Infrastructure Committee

Chairperson: Martin Gibson

PRO: Colm Byrne

- Enda Walsh
- Eamonn Byrne
- John Gorman
- Ryan McFadden
- Tony Croke
- Daire Gillen

Infrastructure Committee Members

	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	Wi-Fi throughout building and improve efficiency	Ongoing	ICT committee, Ragnall Quinn
2.	Provision of a further IT devices training programmes courses	Ongoing	Ragnall Quinn/T&L comm.
3.	Lockers	Ongoing	Committee & management
4.	Garden / Sensory Areas	Ongoing	Committee, management, LCA teachers & SEN
5.	Outside space / New pitch / Gardens	Ongoing	Committee, management & SEN
6.	Outdoor play areas	Ongoing	Committee & management
7.	Gaeltacht recognition scheme/Language Unit	Ongoing	Pleanala Teanga Comm./Infrastructure Comm
8.	Heating system replacement	Ongoing	Committee & management
9.	ASD unit	Ongoing	Committee/SEN team & management
10.	Woodwork / Metal / Art refurb	Ongoing	Depts & management
11.	Music room & technology room development	Ongoing	Music Dept & management
12.	Pitch redevelopment	Annually	Committee & management
13.	School signage	Ongoing	Committee & management
14.	Student drop offs	Weekly	Committee & management
15.	Staff room refurbishment	Ongoing	Committee & management

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Continue to add additional seating in social areas
- Quiet study area
- Additional building works are ongoing - ASD, Classrooms, Social areas, Pitch, Play areas.
- Development of further outdoor areas and social spaces.





Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

6. Bealach straitéiseach na Gaeilge sa scoil 2017/18

Chairperson: Pádraigín Ní Chearnaigh

PRO: Bridín Ní Ghallchóir

- Eibhlín Ní Fhearraigh
- Máire Uí Lochlainn
- Máire Nic Aoidh
- Seán Ó Gormain
- Celine Ní Ghadhra
- Tony Mac Ruairí
- Seosamh O'Ceallaigh

Na spriocanna atá muid ag iarraidh a chur i gcrích:

Item	Lead Responsibility
1. Páirt iomlán a ghlacadh i bpolasaithe Oideachas Gaeltachta agus pléan a chur chuig an Roinn róimh dheireadh Eanáir 2018	Bord Bain
2. Comhoibriú le coiste pleanáil teanga na Rosann faoi scéim limistéar Pleanáil teanga.	Coiste
3. Ár scoil a Ghaelú - íomha Ghaelach a chruthú sa scoil tré na meáin chumarsáide, litríochta agus fograíochta.	Coiste/ SOC
4. Stad na Gaeilge a mheas i measc na ndáltaí/ tuismitheoirí.	Coiste/Bord Bain
5. Sruth Gaelach a aimsiú do 2019/2020 Ábaltacht agus cumas Ghaeilge múinteoirí/ SNA na scoile a mheas.	Bord Bain.
6. Fiosrú maidir le acmhannaí riachtannacha sa scoil le dul chun cinn a dhéanamh	Coiste
7. Forbairt ar chearnóg na Gaeilge	Bord Bain/Coiste

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Forbairt a dhéanamh ar ár smaoineamh, 'Frása an Lae' agus leanúint ar aghaidh leis i rith na scoilbhliana.
- Comhpháirtíocht níos dlúithe le daltaí bunscoile agus gníomhaíochtaí a aimsiú lenár dteanga a fhorbairt.
- Gníomhaíochtaí núíosacha a fhorbairt le go mbeadh an Ghaeilge níos taitneamhach agus níos spraíúil i gcomhpháirtíocht le gníomhaireachtaí seachtracha.
- An foireann uilig a spreagadh le cúpla focal Gaeilge a úsáid achán lá.
- Drámaíocht, drámaí agus coirmeacha ceoil i nGaeilge.
- Plean gníomhaíochta a fhorbairt leis an ghrúpa pleanáil teanga áitiúil agus rochtain a fháil ar mhaoín atá curtha in áirithe do chúrsaí oideachais a leithdháileadh orthu.
- Lá Gaelach, chomh maith le forbairt ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge.
- Forbairt ar an Chultúrlann, an spás amharclainne agus ar an halla.





Rosses Community School

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7. Student Council / Student Voice

Chairperson: Maureen Conlon

PRO: Sarah Bonner

- **Rían Diver**
- **Katie Carron**
- **Eoghan Walsh**
- **Grainne McGlynn**
- **Caelán Bonner**
- **Lexie Oglesby**
- **Sarah Bonner**
- **Joseph Doyle**

Student Council Actions

	Item	Lead Responsibility
1.	Facilities development	Comm & SC / SV / Management
2.	Student voice workshops	Comm & SC / SV / Management
3.	Guest speakers / career pathways	Comm & SC / SV / Management
4.	Social spaces and activities for lunchtime	Year heads & SC / SV / Pastoral Care
5.	Reflection meetings with management	Management & SC / SV
6.	Anti bullying strategies	Year Heads & SC / PN
7.	Prefects & Mentors	Comm & SC
8.	Social Media Awareness and Action Plans	SC / PN / SV
9.	Teaching and Learning Strategies and Development	SC / PN / J&L Comm
10.	Wellbeing/Health and fitnessworkshops	SC / PN / Wellbeing Comm
11.	Extra curricular provision workshops	SC / Subject Depts
12.	Policy Development	SC / Management / Board of Management

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Suggestion box for students
- Student council meetings with Mr Gorman and Mr Gillen to be scheduled monthly.
- Student council to feedback to students more often and in a formal way, newsletter etc.
- Students having access to the student council to voice their concerns and forum for same.
- Develop lunchtime activities and areas.
- Student members to be involved in school planning committees





Rosses Community School

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8. Wellbeing

Chairperson: Gary Boyle

PRO: Erin McGinty

- Claire O'Donnell
- Marie Timoney
- Leona O'Donnell
- Helen McCready
- Kathleen McGonagle
- Gavin Ward
- Declan O'Donnell
- Christina McGeady
- Eilise O'Hart
- Karen Boyle
- Ciaran Sharkey

Wellbeing

	Item	Timeframe	Lead Responsibility
1.	5th Class initiatives / Physical Health / DCU Niall Moyna	Annually	Committee
2.	Viking Fit / SBG John Kavanagh	Annually	Committee
3.	Denise O'Boyle - emotional wellbeing workshops	Annually	Committee
4.	Manus Boyle - 8 week programme on school values in sport	Annually	Committee
5.	Healthy Eating / Happy Heart	Annually	Committee
6.	Girls Active	Annually	Committee
7.	Extra curricular programme	Annually	Committee

New areas of development following consultation with school partners:

- Continue to develop the Wellbeing Expo
- Develop Bealach na Rosann further and analyse data being produced including medical and physiological benefits using LC PE classes - More variety of activity.
- Develop alternative sporting activities for students to pick as part of extra curricular.
- Focused school based campaign on healthy eating and nutrition.
- Increase life skills modules - Emotional Intelligence, Self-Awareness, Mindfulness etc



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

What our Inspections say...

Guidance Inspection - April 2018

- The quality of provision and whole-school support for Guidance is very good and all of the school's guidance-related policies are up to date.
- The quality of planning and preparation in the guidance department is very good and the whole-school guidance plan is of an exceptionally high quality.
- Advance planning for lessons was evident in the high quality of work sheets, handouts and digital presentations which had been well prepared for the students. Information and communications technology was well integrated into the lessons observed. Commendably, all students were provided with laptops that facilitated easy access to additional guidance resources online.
- There is a strong commitment to student care in the school community and there is a wide range of well-integrated student supports in place. Close cooperation between relevant staff is evident.
- The school surveys parents and students regularly for their views, and this has led to the provision of additional subject choices and the hosting of a Careers Fair.
- Through interactions with students, it was clear that the students had a good understanding of the education, training, apprenticeship and career options available to them.
- In their feedback during the evaluation, senior students praised the accessibility and availability of the guidance team to meet with them on an individual basis.
- Classroom guidance is timetabled appropriately for students in TY, fifth year and sixth year.
- A student support team meets twice a week and provides an effective forum for dealing with student issues.
- Referrals are made to the appropriate support agencies in the area and strong links have been established with Donegal Youth Services and other support groups in the community.
- A mindfulness toolbox has been produced for the school community as part of its ongoing promotion of positive mental health. Other initiatives include a Festival of Happiness Week and an Active Schools Week.
- It is a positive development that parents and students are represented on the Health Promoting School committee, and that student prefects organise the anti-bullying and friendship week in the school.
- An effective induction programme for incoming first-year students is in place and includes subject sampling and a peer-mentoring system.
- The school promotes student leadership in many aspects of school life, including the system of head boy and head girl, the student council, prefects and mentors.
- Records of meetings with students are well maintained in paper and digital format and are stored securely, along with records of various assessments and standardised tests.
- An annual report on the initial destinations of Leaving Certificate students is compiled. Former students are invited back regularly to talk about their courses and career paths, and their achievements in all walks of life are celebrated.



Rosses Community School

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What our Inspections say...

French Inspection – October 2017

A range of methodologies were observed, a number of which were used to good or very good effect. A positive learning environment prevailed in all lessons. Students were very well behaved and applied themselves to their work.

The current engagement with the Erasmus Plus programme is also good practice as a means of supporting professional development and intercultural dialogue with French schools. The school's initiative to fund a language assistant for part of the year to support students in preparation for their oral examination at Leaving Certificate is commended.

The quality of planning for teaching and learning is good. The subject plan sets out the context and includes schemes of work for each year group. These schemes of work are well laid out establishing the topics with their corresponding learning outcomes, relevant methodologies, resources and assessment protocols. There is also very good sharing of resources and co-operation with colleagues using digital media as the means of communication.

Incidental Inspection – April 2016

Opening of Lessons

- All teachers had clear learning outcomes shared and discussed with students to open class.
- Students had a clear understanding of what would happen in the class.

Collaborative Learning

- All students and lessons showed good examples of collaborative learning.
- Some really good practice observed.

Questioning

- Great spread of questioning in all lessons.
- Very good strategies used for questioning.
- Good range of both higher and lower order questions.
- All questioning was appropriate and led to learning.
- Really good "wait time" for answers.
- Great prompting and affirmation shown here "you know this".
- Teachers very good at praising affirming students.

Active Learning Methodologies

- Very good use of active learning methods observed in all classes.
- Great use of methodologies to stretch more able students observed.
- Good use of peer mentoring and this can be developed.



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2020 - 2023

What our Inspections say...

Homework and Tasks

- Was allocated well where appropriate.
- Students were clear on tasks.

Teaching and Learning

- Teaching and learning (T&L) is one of the seven themes addressed in the school's published Strategic Plan 2013-2016. Mentoring and analysing student achievement is central to the work of the T&L committee that is leading this theme.

Management, Leadership and Learning Inspection - April 2015

Teaching and Learning

- In almost all the lessons visited, the quality of teaching and learning ranged from good to very good.
- Information and communication technology (ICT) equipment is widely available for teaching and learning with all rooms visited containing a digital projector and a desktop computer.
- Twenty one lessons were observed during the evaluation. In the majority of these, the standard of teaching and learning were observed during the evaluation. In the majority of these, the standard of teaching and learning was good and in some cases, very good.

Management and Leadership

- The Principal and Deputy Principal present as a cohesive team and demonstrate very effective leadership of the school.
- A collaborative and systematic approach to curricular planning has been adopted which has seen rapid development and improvement of subject planning documentation.
- The school has an inclusive and fair admissions policy.
- The care of students is a priority for all staff.
- The school provides an array of extracurricular and co-curricular activities to enhance students personal and social development.
- A warm welcoming atmosphere is evident on entry to the Rosses Community School.



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