

Agreed Report for School Community

February 2024

Additional School Accommodation

The Department has formally approved a grant for the provision of additional accommodation for our school. The grant will fund an SEN suite and ancillary accommodation along with a number of other classrooms also. The approval of the grant is just one of many steps before the additional accommodation will be in place. The whole project involving building design, Department approval, planning permission, construction and much more will take a number of years to complete.

School Tours

In addition to a language exchange, three school tours abroad have been approved by the Board for 2023/2024. The tours will take students to Cologne, Germany and Paris, France for language and culture experiences, and a musical festival in Lucca, Italy

Meeting of Boards of Six Sister Protestant Schools

At the end of November 2023, the Board of Ashton School met with the boards of five sister comprehensive school in Dublin, Wicklow and Donegal to collaborate and share experience. It was considered a very valuable experience.

Hall of Fame Award 2023/2024

It is planned that past student and actor Éanna Hardwicke will receive the Ashton School Hall of Fame award on Wednesday, 21st February. On the day Mr Hardwicke will also meet with fifth and sixth year students for Q & A sessions. Staff and students are looking forward to the event which will celebrate the outstanding achievement of a past student.

Compass

Good progress has been made on adopting Compass, the school's new online database management system. Parents are encouraged to use the Compass app as the simplest and easiest way to explain absences.

One-to-one Devices

Students enrolled in first year 2024/2025 will use one-to-one devices. A meeting for parents will be scheduled in April and will be followed by the opening of the online shop.

Policies

Policy development is currently focusing on acceptable use policies for Internet, on-line learning and one-to-one device use.

DES Letters and Circulars

The following Department of Education Circulars have been noted by the Board and are brought to the attention of all members of the school community.

- a. [0058/2023](#) Force Majeure Leave and Illness in Family Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- b. [0059/2023](#) Domestic Violence Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and

Post Primary Schools

- c. [0060/2023](#) Domestic Violence Leave for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- d. [0001/2024](#) Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs in 2024
- e. [0004/2024](#) Extension to the Waiver of Abatement of Public Sector Pensions under Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012
- f. [0005/2024](#) Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2023
- g. [0007/2024](#) Leave Entitlements for School Secretaries employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools
- h. [0009/2024](#) Staffing Arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for the 2024/25 school
- i. [0015/2024](#) Domestic Violence Leave for School Secretaries covered by the terms of the 2022 Workplace Relation Commission (WRC) Agreement, employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools
- j. [0016/2024](#) Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for School Secretaries covered by the terms of the 2022 Workplace Relation (WRC) Agreement, employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools