

Chairperson's Report – AGM (May 2026)

A Chairde,

On behalf of Cairde na Scoile, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for attending this evening's Annual General Meeting. Your continued support, involvement, and commitment to the school community are truly valued.

I would like to begin by acknowledging our outstanding committee. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and generosity of time ensure that the children and the wider school community remain at the heart of everything we do. We are fortunate to have such a strong and committed group, and we always welcome new members who wish to contribute fresh ideas and energy.

The AGM provides an important opportunity for us to reflect on the past year, to engage with you as parents, and to gather your feedback on our work. It is also a chance to look ahead, identify opportunities for improvement, and continue building a strong and inclusive school community. We are very grateful to everyone who has made the effort to attend and contribute.

A key element of the AGM is the election of committee officers. While the typical term of service is three years, many members choose to remain involved for longer. Personally, I have served on the Cairde for eight years. It has been a deeply rewarding experience and a meaningful way to give back to the school through my time, energy, ideas, and sense of community spirit. It's a great time for me to step down

As I will no longer have a child in the school, and with a number of long-serving members also stepping down, this is an important moment for renewal and continuity. This year, we have three officer roles to fill, and I am pleased to put forward the following nominations:

Chairperson: Jennifer O'Kelly

Treasurer: Ciara Byrne

Secretary: Aoife Parsons

I would strongly encourage all parents to consider becoming involved—either as committee members or as volunteers. Participation in the Cairde is both rewarding and impactful, directly contributing to the daily experiences of the children in our school. Even if you cannot commit to regular meetings, there are many ways to help through events, subgroups, and one-off activities.

We are also looking ahead to a significant milestone, as the school celebrates its 30th anniversary next year. Plans are already underway for what promises to be a memorable and engaging year, and we look forward to seeing the school community come together to mark the occasion.

Over the years, Cairde na Scoile has achieved much that we can be proud of, leaving a lasting and positive legacy. Funds raised have supported a wide range of important initiatives, including:

- The Amazon sensory room
- Sports equipment
- Classroom resources
- A stage for school performances
- Seating for the halla
- Yard games and recreational equipment

In addition, the Cairde has played an important role in supporting the school with essential needs, including building repairs and operational funding. As highlighted by school leadership, the resources provided by the Department do not fully meet the cost of running a school of this size. Your generosity and ongoing support are therefore crucial and greatly appreciated.

Importantly, Cairde na Scoile is about far more than fundraising. We are committed to enriching school life and strengthening community connections for children, parents, and families alike.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have organised and supported a wide range of activities, including:

- Maidin Café
- Clothing collections
- Halloween costume pop-up shop
- Class photographs
- Promotion of school initiatives through Knocklyon News
- Open evening for prospective families
- Christmas card collection
- Internet safety talk tonight
- Gardening projects
- Bottle recycling initiatives
- Support for sacramental celebrations and related events
- Grandparents' Day for R2 and R6

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events planned to conclude the year:

- Race Night fundraiser in Ballyboden
- Our last clothing collection of the year
- End-of-term ice cream treat
- Slán R6 celebrations

All of these initiatives are made possible by a dedicated group of approximately 20 volunteers who generously give their time and effort. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each member of the committee and all volunteers—your commitment makes a real difference.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support and collaboration of our Principal, Carthaigh, our Vice Principal, Clár, and the Board of Management. Working together, we continue to build on a strong tradition of community spirit, generosity, and shared responsibility.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and remain committed to supporting the school and enhancing the experience for all our children. We

warmly welcome your ideas, feedback, and involvement as we continue this work together.

Thank you once again for your support.