

Strategic Plan for Ennis National School 2024-2027



Introduction

The **Strategic Plan 2024–2027** for Ennis National School has been developed following a comprehensive consultation process involving staff, parents, and pupils. Rooted in our commitment to fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and nurturing educational environment, this plan sets out key priorities and actions that will guide the school's development over the next three years. The Board of Management has carefully considered the evolving needs of our school community, ensuring that this plan strengthens our Catholic ethos, enhances teaching and learning, supports pupil well-being, and improves school infrastructure. Through collaborative effort and shared vision, we aim to provide the best possible learning experiences for every child in Ennis National School.

Vision Statement

To create an inclusive, vibrant, and nurturing educational community where every child, regardless of background or ability, thrives academically, socially, and spiritually, underpinned by our Catholic ethos.

Mission Statement

The staff of this school want to create a climate of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual safety for pupils, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect.

With this in mind, the teachers of the school see education not just as providing pupils with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the emotional, social, sexual, physical and spiritual development of pupils.

In this school we want pupils to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. Achievement of these aspirations by the school requires the help and co-operation of pupils, staff and parents.

Ethos

Ennis National School is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Killaloe. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic ethos represents the norms of behaviour which have emerged and continue to emerge gradually from the repeated interactions and relationships between people in the school community. While Ennis NS is a school with a Catholic ethos, it has due recognition for pupils of other faiths or no faith.

Core Values

Inclusivity: We welcome and respect pupils of all faiths and backgrounds, ensuring all feel valued and included in the school community.

Excellence in Education: We strive for academic excellence through high-quality teaching, professional development, and innovative learning approaches.

Respect and Compassion: We encourage a spirit of kindness, respect, and empathy within our school, following our Catholic ethos.

Community Engagement: We value strong partnerships with parents, staff, and the wider community to support each child's learning and development.

Well-being: We are dedicated to fostering the emotional, physical, and social well-being of every pupil.

Strategic Objectives (2024-2027)

I. Promote Understanding and Application of the School's Catholic Ethos

Objective: Enhance the school community's understanding and application of the Catholic ethos, particularly for the increasing number of non-Catholic pupils, ensuring clarity for parents, staff, and pupils.

Actions

I.1. Develop communication materials explaining the school's Catholic ethos and its practical implications for daily school life.

I.2. Organise workshops and discussions for parents, teachers, and pupils to engage with and better understand the ethos.

1.3. Identify and achieve key targets in the lived expression of Catholic ethos in this school, for example, through Alignment of policies, teaching, and activities with the Catholic ethos.

2. Enhance Social and Emotional Well-being through Play and Friendship

Objective: Foster positive relationships and friendships among pupils by improving opportunities for play and social interaction during breaktimes.

Actions

2.1. Increase the variety of breaktime activities as well as inclusive games and structured yard activities to engage all pupils.

2.2. Designate areas for quieter play for pupils who may prefer this and develop opportunities for guided social play

3. Address Space Constraints and Expand Facilities

Objective: Ensure that the school's physical infrastructure meets the growing needs of all pupils, especially those in special education, and explore options for before-school, preschool, and after-school care.

Actions

3.1. Investigate acquiring additional land to expand the school campus.

3.2. Develop a plan to add new classrooms, special education facilities, and space for Special Education Teachers (SET).

3.3. Explore the feasibility of and where appropriate, seek partnerships or funding to develop preschool and afterschool services.

4. Strengthen Teaching and Learning in Core Subjects

Objective: Focus on enhancing teaching and learning in core subjects like Maths, Gaelige, and Literacy, as highlighted by staff and parents.

Actions

4.1. Provide professional development for staff on the new curriculum for Maths and Gaelige, ensuring high-quality instruction.

4.2. Focus on improving literacy and written English through targeted interventions and creative writing programs.

4.3. Assess pupil progress in core subjects and adjust strategies to meet evolving needs

5. Improve Communication and Engagement with Parents

Objective: Enhance communication with parents about the school day, afterschool activities, and learning progress, in response to parent feedback.

Actions

5.1. Implement a clear communication strategy, with regular updates about the school day and curriculum via newsletters, class apps, and online platforms.

5.2. Share detailed information about afterschool activities, ensuring parents are fully aware of available sports, games, and other programs

5.3. Increase opportunities for parents to engage with teachers, through regular meetings, open days, or classroom-specific newsletters.

6. Promote a Safe and Inclusive School Environment

Objective: Ensure a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all pupils by addressing behaviour concerns and fostering a culture of care.

Actions

6.1. Strengthen playground supervision to monitor and address any behaviour issues, as suggested by parents, ensuring all children feel safe and included.

6.2. Implement peer support or buddy systems to help children who feel left out to build friendships

6.3. Promote respect and inclusion through school-wide assemblies, workshops, and social-emotional learning (SEL) programs.

7. Promote Active Travel and Environmental Awareness

Objective: Encourage healthy and sustainable travel options for the school community, while promoting environmental awareness.

Actions

7.1. Sustain and expand active travel initiatives like the “Walking Bus” and “Cycling Bus,” encouraging more families to participate.

7.2. Partner with local authority to improve walking and cycling infrastructure around the school.

- **Incorporate climate change initiatives and sustainability education into the school's curriculum and into the day to day operation of the school and school facilities.**

Implementation and Monitoring

The Board of Management will oversee the implementation of this strategic plan. Periodic monitoring and annual reviews will assess progress towards each objective, with input from staff, parents, and pupils. The school will provide regular updates to the community to ensure transparency and collective engagement in achieving these goals.

This strategic plan reflects the priorities and concerns raised by the pupils, staff, and parents of Ennis National School, while also addressing the school's infrastructure and ethos needs. It provides a comprehensive framework to support the school's growth and well-being of its pupils over the next three years.