



School Self Evaluation / Deis Newsletter





Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

Welcome

The Rosses Community School exists to promote and develop young people from the beautiful, rugged and resilient North West of Ireland. We work in a spirit of mutual respect.

Our core values are to identify and foster the individual talents of our young people.

In the spirit of our Gaelic and Celtic ancestors, to develop and enhance their unique talents. This was identified by Pádraig Pearse in his wonderful vision for Irish education over 100 years ago. "To the old Irish the teacher was aite, 'fosterer', the pupil was dalta, 'fosterchild', the system was aiteachas, 'fosterage', words which we still retain, oide, dalta, oideachas. Pearse recognised the role of the teacher in Irish education, to foster and enhance the individual's unique gifts.

Our mission every day is to "hunt for good behaviour", to cherish and support the young people in our care, through all aspects of life. Through the highlights and hardships. To emerge from their time here as happy, hard working, passionate young people.

Every day spent with us exemplifies this as a living, breathing thing. A spirit of care, togetherness and progression.

"Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí"

John Gorman (Principal)



John Gorman
PRINCIPAL



Dáire Gillen
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



RCS Prefects



RCS Mentors



Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

Core Values

Respect

Encouragement

Collaboration

Kindness

Accountability

Celebrate achievement

Student Centered

Best Practice

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 2018-2020

Introduction

- The plan is being constantly reviewed and is agile to adapt to school needs.
- This is the 3rd 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 2013-16 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 2018-2020

Recent News

- New Prefects, Mentors and members of the Student Council have been chosen to represent and support our students during the 2018/19 school year.
- Agricultural Science students attended Ploughing Championships in September. This was a great opportunity for the students. Thank you to Mrs Cannon for organising the trip.
- Sporting Success:
 - Patrick McGarvey - Representing the RCS on the Irish team (Soccer).
 - Dylan Traynor - Cycling success (Nicolas Roche).
 - Oisín Wallace - Won the Ulster 9 counties boys boxing championship.
 - Donal Walsh - Cycling success (World Ranking).
 - Aidan Brennan - Representing the RCS on the Irish team (Soccer).
 - Amy Greene - 7th in u15 All-Ireland cross-country championships.
 - Under 14 boys through to County schools A final where they will play Glenties Comprehensive in January.
 - First year girls won the regional indoor athletics and are through to the County Final.
 - Keadue Rovers won the u14/u15/u16 champions league competitions.
 - Senior boys basketball team through to shield final.
 - U16 Girls reached the Ulster Semi Final.
- Amharclann na Rosann - Our school library facility has been renovated as a dual purpose auditorium and reading room.
- An Ghaeltacht - facility improvements in lower areas of school celebrating and promoting our language and heritage
- Change of Deputy Principal - Mr Gillen has replaced Mrs Forrestal as Deputy Principal. We wish them both well in their new roles.
- Erasmus - Danish teachers visited last week.
- French Theatre visit in October.



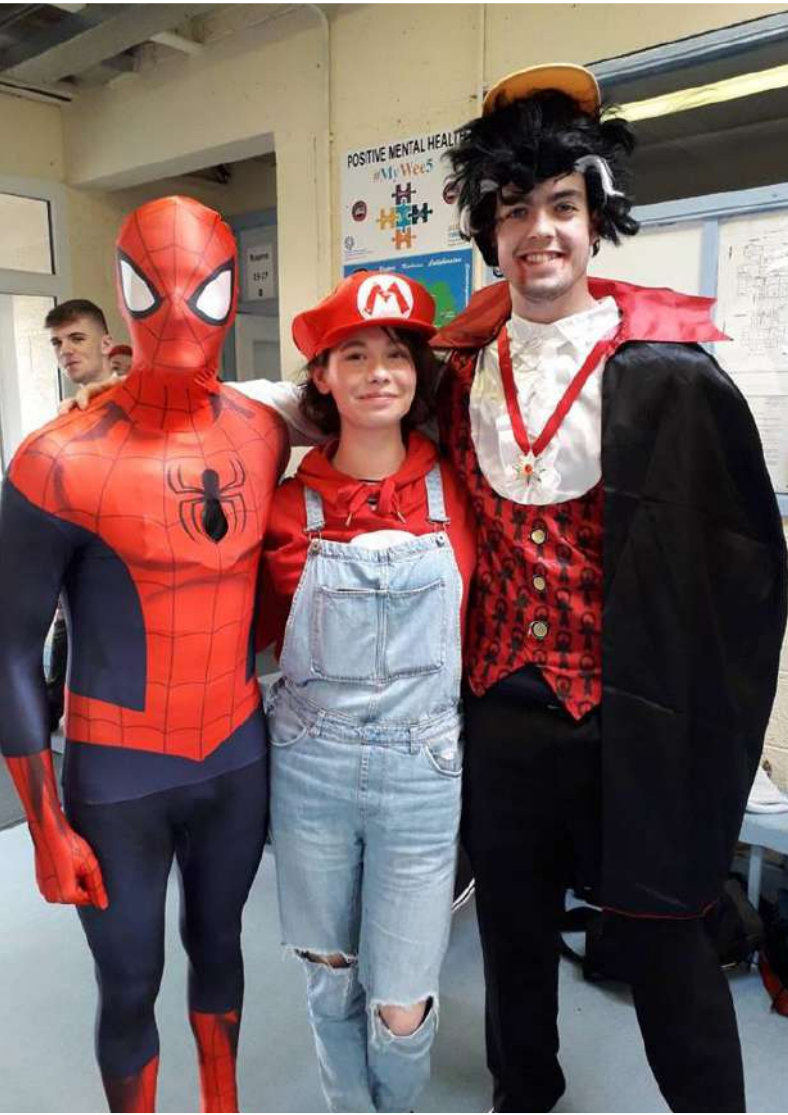
Rosses Community School

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Recent News

- Foreign Trips - Transition Year Science students visited London. Our Leaving Cert Applied class visited the Land Rover factory in Liverpool. Our 2nd year students will visit Belgium in the new year.
- Career Guidance Open Days - 5th & 6th (Sligo IT, DCU, NUIG and Cork Marine College).
- Enterprise Events - Students visited GTec, Randox, Enterprise Event (Waterfront).
- Charity Events: Wear a Hat Day, Odd Sock Day, Sleep-out and other charity events.
- The English Department have introduced creative writing workshop for JC students with writer Malachy Doyle and also a drama module for 2nd years.
- Go Quest - Transition Year Maths students attended this excellent facility in November.
- Awards Day - Special Guest (Past pupil Marc Walsh) - Celebrating all of the achievements of our students in the 2017/18 school year.
- The excellent 'GAA Future Leaders Programme' has been introduced to TY.
- Day of Languages - Celebration of all languages in school.
- Maths Week - Improving Numeracy in our school.
- Young Scientist Success - Alfie Greene & Kieran Glackin have made the final of this year's BT Young Scientist to be held in the RDS in January.
- Christmas Village and Panto - Our TY students held an extremely successful Christmas event in school recently. Well done to all!







Rosses Community School

School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

1. Management & Leadership Committee

Chairperson: Daíre Gillen

PRO: John Gorman

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Agnes Cannon | • Lorraine Boyle |
| • Gerry Doherty | • Gary Boyle |
| • Ragnall Quinn | • Patricia Graham |
| • Maureen Conlon | • Seosamh O'Ceallaigh |
| • Angela Gallagher | |

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- Review of Guidance inspection and implementation of recommendations.
- Promote continuous professional development of teachers.

Recent Activities

- Policy review including RSE policy.
- SEN Policy under review in consultation with the SEN team.
- School extra-curricular fundraising draw.
- Whole School professional development for Junior Cycle
- School Improvement Plan for 2018-20 launched.
- DEIS Plan updated.

- Capital development funding applications to improve school facilities.
- Whole staff awareness of SSE and DEIS planning.

2. Teaching & Learning Committee

Recent Activities

- Chromebook strategy developed in school.
- Best practice in teaching booklet created for all staff.
- Demonstration days and peer visits.
- Development of Google Classroom and Team Drive.
- Online teaching resources made available for staff.
- After school classes - Maths and English have been taking place since September as part of the RCS Student Enrichment Programme. Students may attend the DCU talent search exams in January in Sligo IT. Ms McGill, Ms McKinley and Ms McGinty have facilitated these classes for third years students.
- JCSP initiatives have been applied for and the students and school will benefit from these.

Key Priorities for 2018/19

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|---|--|
| • Hold demonstration days for teachers to share methodologies regarding JCT. | • Continue with educational trips - Next trip is JC trip to Belgium. |
| • Implement SLAR procedures for all subject departments as part of Junior Cycle reform. | • Local history visual learning - New murals on display in school. |
| • Introduce traffic light system on doors - peer observation for teachers. | |

Chairperson: Joanne Doherty

PRO: Daíre Gillen

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Lorraine Coyle | • Bridín Ní Ghallachóir |
| • Christina McGeedy | • Carleen Gallagher |
| • Agnes Cannon | • Fiona Timoney |
| • Mary McLoughlin | • Eilise O'Hart |
| • Pauline McGill | • Declan O'Donnell |
| • Maria Melly | |





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3. Partnership with Parents & Others Committee

Chairperson: Moya Curran

PRO: Dawn Croke

- Tara Duddy
- Claire Gallagher
- Mary Jo McGee
- Ellen Scally
- Dáire Gillen
- Suzanne Gallagher
- Gavin Ward
- Eibhlín Ní Fhearraigh
- Michelle Gallagher
- Helen McCready
- Bridgeen Doherty
- Celine O'Gara
- Sara Laughlin

Recent Activites

- Successful Christmas Village and TY Pantomime.
- Development of the Erasmus Programme, including a recent visit from Erasmus teachers from Denmark.
- Way2pay payment facility introduced for parents.
- Further development of our social media presence.

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- Grease Musical February 2019.
- Update school website.
- Parent Network information evenings.

4. Student Attendance, Attainment & Retention

Recent Activites

1. Last year the committee compiled a list of all extra-curricular activities available to students in the school such as extra support classes in Leaving Cert subjects (Maths, Business, Biology etc) , participation in the Young Scientist Competition, Educational excursions , school musical and sports teams. We also looked at students who were availing of these activities and if it was contributing to school completion. The Careers team were able to avail of this data during the recent subject inspection.

2. Last year a log was taken of all students arriving late to school in the morning, this information was shared with the Year Heads who were then able to follow up on students who were persistently late.

Key Priorities for 2018/19

1. We are working to improve the current sign out system whereby students sign out in a book in the front office. We are gathering statistics on number of sign outs /reasons for sign out and whether parent has given signed permission

2. We plan to get the sign out book data added to vs ware so that parents and Year Heads have easy access to this information

Chairperson: Tony Forrestal

PRO: Dearbhla Fox

- Julia Gribben
- Sarah Hegarty
- Helena Cunningham
- Mary McLoughlin
- Bridget Marry





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5. Infrastructure Committee

Recent Activities

- Outdoor Classroom/garden paved and artificial grass laid.
- Retractable seating purchased for assembly areas.
- Hedging planted adjacent to entrance.
- Mood lighting installed in sensory room.
- Development of school Amharclann.
- Visual display units in assembly areas.

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- Equipment upgrade for practical room 20.
- Repaint lines on running track.
- School signage development.
- Online notice-boards for each assembly.
- Provision of lockers for all students.

Chairperson: Martin Gibson

PRO: Colm Byrne

- Eamonn Byrne
- Kevin Boyle
- Ciaran Sharkey
- Enda Walsh
- John Gorman
- Erin McGinty
- Ryan McFadden
- Angela Gallagher

6. Bealach straitéiseach na Gaeilge sa scoil

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- I mbliana, tá dhá chúntóir teanga fostaithe againn sa scoil. Tá cúntóir teanga amháin (an tUasal Tony Mac Ruairí) ag obair linn go lán-aimseartha agus tá sé ag obair faoi Mhuintearas agus tá cúntóir teanga eile againn (Siobhán Nic Neilis) gach Aoine agus tá sí fostaithe ag an scoil.
- Bhunaigh muid 'Coiste na Scoláirí' cúpla seachtain ó shin agus bíonn 'Club na Gaeilge' a réachtáil acu ag am lóin. Bhí biongó ar siúl againn an tseachtain seo caite. Beidh dualgaisí le comhlíonadh acu i rith na bliana chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil. Tá sé mar aidhm acu íomhá dhearfach a chruthú don Ghaeilge i measc na ndaltaí agus pobal na scoile fosta.
- Tá Cearnóg na Gaeilge bunaithe sa scoil anois agus tháinig an t-ealaíontóir Caoimhín Ó Gallchóir isteach le híomhánna a tharraingt ar na ballaí de scríbhneoirí na Rosann agus a léithidí. Beidh deis ag na scoláirí amach anseo imeachtaí a dhéanamh agus comhrá a bheith acu tré mheán na Gaeilge. Tá sé ar intinn againn teilifís a chrochadh ar an bhalla agus cláracha TG4 a chur ar siúl dona daltaí.
- D'aistrigh muid comharthaí na scoile go dtí Gaeilge agus tá na comharthaí ar fáil anois i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge do phobal na scoile.
- Tá seomra i leith curtha ar fáil anois agus tá acmhainní na Gaeilge le húsáid ansin ag na múinteoirí / scoláirí más gá.
- Tá grúpa ceol traidisiúnta sa scoil anois agus tá Tony Mac Ruairí mar stiúrthóir ag an ghrúpa. Cuirfear béim ar an cheol comhaimseartha go háirithe.

Cathaoirleach: Seosamh O'Ceallaigh

OCP: Pádraigín Ní Chearnaigh

- Bridín Ní Ghallchóir
- Seán Ó Gormain
- Eibhlin Ní Fhearraigh
- Celine Ní Ghadhra
- Máire Uí Lochlainn
- Máire Nic Aoidh





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7. Student Council / Student Voice

Recent Activities

- New members of the student council elected for 18/19.
- Members of our council represented the school at the Donegal Youth Council Agenda day. Issues raised included: Sexual Education, Mental Health Education & Drug and alcohol use among teenagers.
- Prefects and Head-boy & Head-girl elected
- 5th Year Mentors selected for the coming school year.

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- Chromebooks policy at break time.
- Looking at solution of heavy exam papers.
- Coat hooks made available for all students - TY project.
- Canteen food - Healthy Heart application in the process.
- Looking into damage caused in school toilets and possible solutions.

Chairperson: Michael Greene

PRO: Ms Conlon, Ms Doherty, Mr Gillen

1st year - Rian Diver & Molly Gallagher

2nd year - Ryan Brennan & Katie Carron

3rd year - Lexie Oglesby & Caelan Bonner

4th year - Eimear Walsh & Michael Greene

5th Year - Joseph Doyle & Sarah Bonner

6th year - Hannah McShea & Kevin O Donnell

Donegal Youth Council Grainne Mc Glynn

8. Parents Network / Board of Management

Chairperson: Helen Noble

- Annamarie McCready
- Marianne Rodgers
- Michelle Greene
- Terene Woodfine
- Teresa Greene
- Tina Healey

Key Priorities for 2018/19

- Call to parents to join committee (especially to represent 1st years)
- Monday January 7th - Parents Network Meeting - all parents/guardians welcome and Launch of Make One Change 2019 - in partnership with Parent Hub Donegal and CYPSC.
- Publish dates of future meetings, establish AGM date.
- Relaunch email address: parentsnetwork@rossescommunityschool.ie
- Social/Leisure events - Holidaying in Spain - Off the Beaten Track (with Nuria Aguilo and members of Sligo Spanish Society); yoga, coffee mornings.
- Facilitator training for Parents Plus courses* and subsequent delivery of courses *Parents Plus Adolescent, Working Things Out.
- Parental class representatives to be chosen for each class.

Recent Activities

- Registered with National Parents Council.
- Developed a resource list of useful contacts and links for parents, published on website.
- Committee members networked at PTMs, raising profile and distributed documents to parents.
- Information Evenings.





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School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

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.



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