

Annual Report 2019

CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools' Trust) is the Trustee body responsible for the trusteeship of the secondary schools of five religious congregations - the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Christian Retreat, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Mercy. The Trust provides a moral and legal trustee framework, dedicated to developing and sustaining the vibrant network of CEIST schools, and to continuing the growth and development of secondary education with a Catholic ethos in Ireland.

OBJECTIVE*

CEIST was established in 2007 for the following charitable object:

To further the aims and purposes of Roman Catholic education in the tradition of the combined ethos and educational philosophies of the Congregations in colleges and schools and other educational projects in Ireland.

SUBSIDIARY OBJECTIVES*

To secure through the Management, the development and implementation of the religious and educational philosophy of the Company.

To ensure that the Schools provide educational opportunity for all students and give special consideration to those who are disadvantaged or marginalised in any way and ensure that provision is made, in so far as is practicable, for those with special educational needs.

To provide through the Schools a holistic education, that caters for the spiritual, emotional, physical, social, aesthetic and intellectual development of the students.

To ensure that education in the Schools is imparted in an environment where students are inspired and enabled to direct their lives in accordance with Gospel values and to contribute to the overall good of society.

Generally, to further the interest of Roman Catholic education in Ireland.

*from the Memorandum and Articles of Association of CEIST CLG.



Foreword from the Chairperson



2019 represents the thirteenth year of CEIST's existence and like the previous twelve, the Trust continues to go from strength to strength. In this report, innovation, creativity and resourcefulness are showcased throughout the network of the 107 CEIST schools. Details of a selection of the school-based initiatives pursued during the course of the year are outlined. The purpose of the report is also, from a corporate governance perspective, to account for the Board of Directors' stewardship of CEIST. We hope you find the report informative, appealing and beneficial. We encourage you to share the report with as many of your contacts as possible. We particularly encourage Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Principals to share the report with all staff, students, parents, guardians and local parishes.

The primary purpose of CEIST is the promotion of Catholic Education with the determined and intentional aim of contributing to the building up of both the Kingdom of God and the common good. As a Board, we are charged with the responsibility of actualising the Vision and Mission of the CEIST Charter. Our work throughout 2019, as ever, was motivated by loyalty to the Charter and an obligation to implement its values. We have gladly inherited this obligation from our founding congregations, and we remain faithful to ensuring the Charter's realisation.

CEIST Voluntary Secondary Schools work in partnership with the State in seeking to make our contribution to the common good. It is worth noting that the cost to CEIST schools in relation to expenditure of a capital nature during the 2018/19 school year amounted to €23.3m. Of this amount, the schools provided €2.7m (12%) from their own funds. Ultimately a large proportion of this €2.7m was paid for by parents either by way of fundraising or contributions. In relation to current expenditure for the school year 2018/2019 only 63% of CEIST school income came from government sources. The narrative exists that CEIST schools are funded by the State. In reality our schools are part-funded by the State! The State benefits in countless ways due to the voluntary effort and generosity of those who continue to support the voluntary sector. One wonders if the State truly understands or indeed appreciates the enormous generosity of the CEIST family who contribute on a daily basis, working hand in hand with the State, in building up the common good. As faith schools we see our contribution as not only to the common good but to building the Kingdom of God. The origins of Voluntary Secondary Schools and the complex educational landscape within which they currently function, most particularly the current relationship with the State and the State's understanding of our historical origins, are themes that require deliberation, reflection, clarity and appreciation. CEIST will continue to lead in these areas, with a view to creating the circumstances where not only CEIST, but the Voluntary Secondary School sector as a whole, is robust, understood and valued.

The work of the Implementation Group, established by the Catholic Education Services Committee (CESC) for the purpose of bringing greater cohesion to the sector, concluded at the end of 2019. CEIST is confident that the structures due to be established within the next few months, provide the architecture to allow the voluntary sector to become stronger and more fit for purpose. The crucial part as we move forward will be the willingness of the various bodies and their respective executives to allow the structures to function. Goodwill and compromise will be required on all sides.

Diversity and inclusion of those marginalised and on the fringes of society are themes that frequently permeate present educational discourse. CEIST is to the forefront in educational provision in these areas. Perhaps we need to shout louder about this aspect of our work? CEIST schools have inherited a tradition of ensuring that those most in need are given resources to allow them participate fully in school life. We know this happens on a daily basis throughout the schools – CEIST schools are to be commended for their unobtrusive, discreet generosity in ensuring student disadvantage is addressed on an ongoing basis and in a meaningful way. We thank the Presentation Sisters North

East Province for the provision of a very substantial bursary to alleviate educational disadvantage and hardship for many students throughout the network of CEIST schools.

The achievement of the strategic objectives of the Trust is dependent on the purposeful and determined efforts of all at the coal face. We salute Chairpersons, Boards of Management, Principals, Deputy Principals, Teachers, Secretaries, Special Needs Assistants, Caretakers, Cleaning and Catering Staff for their unstinting energy, enthusiasm and commitment in contributing to the work of making the CEIST Charter real in the schools on a daily basis.

Sincere thanks are extended to my fellow Directors whose wisdom, expertise and generosity is evident in the various strategic initiatives pursued by the Board. As well as attending regular Board meetings Directors continue to serve on sub-committees which expedite the work of the Board. CEIST Directors take their corporate governance role and sustainability of the Trust very seriously. We are fully engaged in a ministry of governance to ensure, not only our own compliance, but compliance also by school management, in exercising their delegated responsibilities. The key work of the Audit Committee under the leadership of John O'Donovan is acknowledged and deeply appreciated, as is the important work of Gene O'Sullivan who chaired the Strategic Planning committee 2017 to 2020.

Paul McEvoy was co-opted to the Board of CEIST in 2019 and will be formally appointed at the Annual General Meeting in May 2020. Paul worked for 41 years with Dublin & Dún Laoghaire Education & Training Board (formerly County Dublin VEC); over 20 of those years were at senior management level, leading the administrative function of the organisation. He holds both a degree and a Master's in Business & Human Resource Management. Paul's experience and knowledge includes the areas of governance, risk management, internal control, audit and capital projects. In 2008, at the request of the Department of Education and Skills, Paul was seconded to the Transforming Public Services (TPS) office, within the Department of the Taoiseach, as the Education sector's representative, working with colleagues from the wider civil and public service. The TPS office was established, on the recommendation of the OECD, following a review of the modernisation of the public sector in Ireland. The CEIST Board is most fortunate to have someone of Paul's experience and skill-set amongst its members – we welcome him aboard and thank him for his generosity.

Our sister company EDUCENA continues to support CEIST financially and to exercise responsibility inherent in the ownership of school properties. The voluntary Directors on its Board, under the Chairpersonship of Jim Corbett, like the CEIST Directors, provide their services pro bono. EDUCENA is driven by a determination to enhance CEIST schools and their place in the local communities whom they serve. As ever, we are deeply appreciative of the work undertaken by EDUCENA in sustaining CEIST and in turn the schools.

At the end of November, after five and a half years of dedicated service as CEO, Dr Marie Griffin, retired from CEIST. CEIST was fortunate to have had Marie at the helm as CEO. Her positive and warm personality, as well as her utterly professional approach to her work, are the hallmarks of her tenure. In particular, Marie's student-focussed initiatives stand out! Marie was a pleasure to work with and her loyalty to the Board was unflinching. Marie was a most effective and successful CEO to whom CEIST is truly thankful. The Chairpersons, Principals and Deputy Principals have expressed unanimous appreciation and gratitude for Marie's work. Her work extended beyond CEIST where, among other things, she was secretary of The Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools. Marie's contribution to the transformational and structural change currently under way in the voluntary schools' sector continues even in retirement! We wish Marie every blessing and good health for her retirement. We know John and the family will appreciate having more time with Marie.

We wish Clare Ryan every success as she takes up her role as CEO. Clare began her teaching career in Patrician College, Finglas, as a teacher of English and French. While there, she also served as Home/School/Community Liaison co-ordinator for five years. In 1998 Clare was seconded to the DES as National Co-ordinator of the 8-15 Early School Leaver Initiative which was the precursor of

the current School Completion Initiative. In 2001, Clare was appointed as the first lay Principal of St. Leo's College, Carlow, an all-girls post-primary school under the trusteeship of C€IST. St. Leo's College is a thriving school community with a current enrolment of over 1000 students. In 2006, Clare was seconded as Assistant National Co-ordinator of Leadership Development for Schools (LDS) with primary responsibility for social inclusion. Her main work was preparing, developing and facilitating leadership in-service for newly appointed and established Principals in Primary and Post-Primary DEIS schools. In 2009, Clare returned to St. Leo's College as Principal but in May 2011 was seconded once again when appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the National Education Welfare Board. The NEWB is the statutory body charged with enactment of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and also has responsibility for the Home/School/Community Liaison Scheme at national level, as well as the School Completion Programme and the Education Welfare Service. Clare returned to St. Leo's College in 2012. Clare's unique skillset and most particularly her coming to the role of CEO directly from principal-ship, gives the Board every confidence that her tenure as CEO will be both enlightened and progressive.

Finally, to the students in our care: we as a Trust are extremely privileged that you, your parents and your guardians have chosen a C€IST school for your post-primary education. A school shares many journeys with students and their families. These are, in the main, happy and nourishing journeys. Sadly, on occasion, tragedy and loss become part of the story. In all cases C€IST schools support, nurture and care for those who have chosen us as companion and guide on their educational journey. C€IST schools are a lot more than places where Leaving Cert points are achieved. C€IST schools provide holistic education, ensuring that every student achieves to the best of her or his ability. Excellence exists when this happens! Catholic Education is about the Catholic School providing an educational environment where the school is an extension of the family. As a Board we strive to ensure that the experience of the students is a positive, rewarding, affirmative and fulfilling one.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Bernard Keeley,

Chairperson, Board of Directors C€IST.

May 2020.



The Choir and Orchestra from Presentation College, Headford, Co. Galway that performed at the Mass at the C€IST Conference on 27th September 2019.

Executive Summary



2019 was another busy year for CEIST. Six new Principals and twenty new Deputy Principals began their leadership journeys in CEIST schools during the year. 44 new Boards of Management took office in October 2019. The willingness of so many to step into leadership roles in Catholic education is a source of inspiration. We wish them all every blessing in the years ahead.

One of the highlights of 2019 was the three-day course held in the Notre Dame Centre in Kylemore Abbey in April to support existing Principals in CEIST schools in their faith leadership. The course was developed by CEIST in partnership with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). Presenters included the late Professor David Tuohy SJ, Bryan O'Reilly, Dr Lorna Gold, Bishop Tom Deenihan, Johnathan Tiernan and Dr Anne Thurston. The Benedictine Sisters, Abbess Sr Maura and Sr Karol O'Connell also presented to participants. Presenters explored the spiritual life, the role of spiritual leader, being a spiritual leader, challenges facing Catholic education and 'Laudato Si', among other topics. All involved felt deepened and strengthened in their roles as faith leaders.

CEIST made an application for patronage of a new second-level school in the Citywest/Saggart area of Dublin. While the application was not successful, the process involved gave an opportunity for many worthwhile conversations with local parents who very definitely wanted a faith-based education for their children. There is much work to be done into the future, by the Catholic sector as a whole, in engaging with prospective parents about their choice of second-level schooling and continuing to offer the option of a Catholic school.

CEIST continued to be involved in 2019, as part of the Catholic education sector, in developing new coordinated structures for the future of Catholic education. Both the Chairperson and the CEO participated in committees that included all the relevant partners. By the end of 2019, the framework for the new structures were in place and new companies are being formed to coordinate the sector.

At the end of 2019, my tenure as CEIST CEO drew to a close. It was a great honour for me to head up such an innovative and responsive organisation. Individual schools are doing wonderful work in preparing our students for active and positive participation in society while, as a whole, the CEIST community has even greater potential to give an understanding of Gospel values. I would like to thank the Board of CEIST for their tireless and voluntary work on behalf of the Trust and the Chairperson, Bernard Keeley, in particular. I would also like to thank all members of CEIST Boards of Management for their work for our schools and for all they give to our communities. CEIST Principals, Deputy Principals and teachers have been a pleasure to work with; their involvement in initiatives, positivity, striving for excellence, welcome and kindness shine through all they do. CEIST students are at the heart of everything and it has been a privilege to serve them.

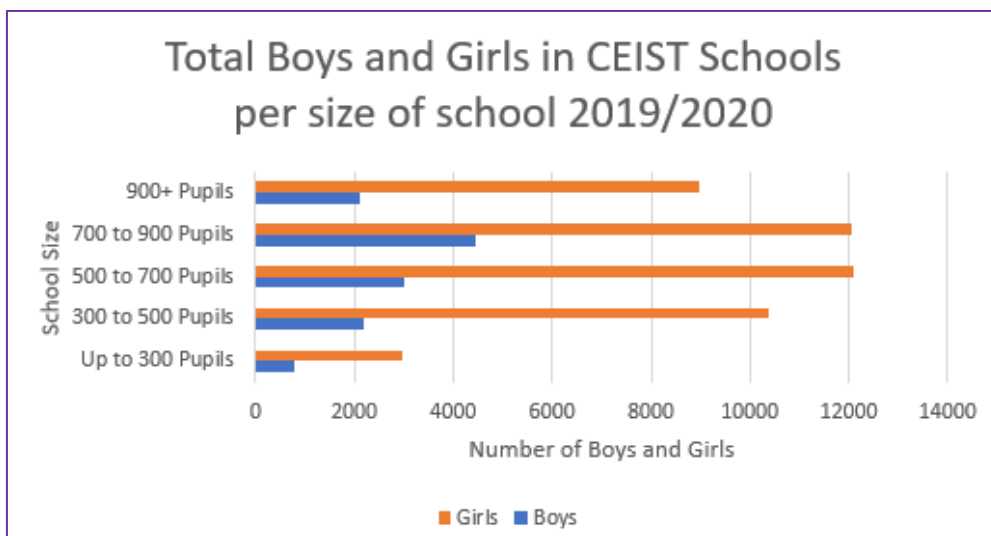
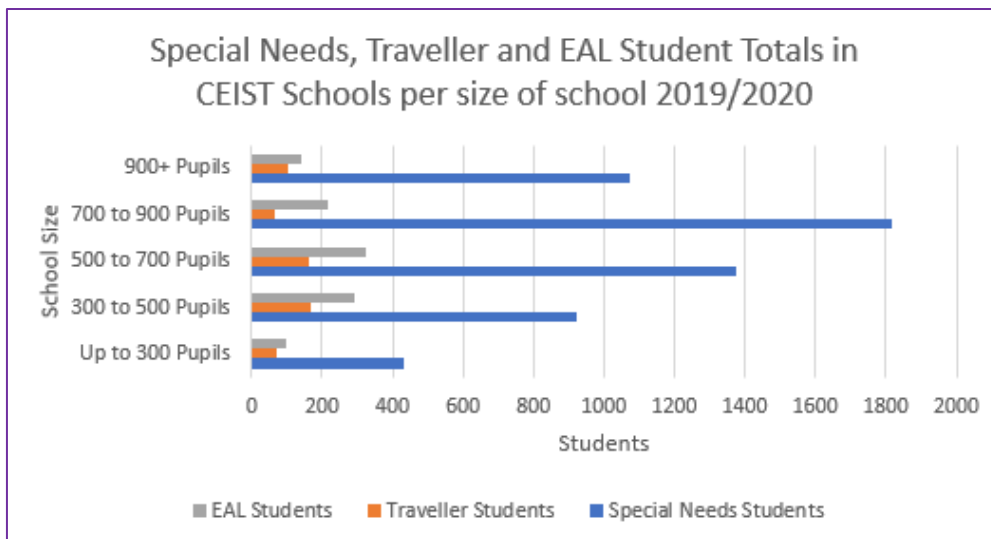
I finally want to thank the CEIST Executive team who link the individual students and schools with the Board and always have the best interests of those we serve in mind. They are hard-working, creative, experienced and kind people and great fun to work alongside. Catherine McCormack announced her retirement at the end of 2019. She will be missed very much from her schools in the South especially, and from the CEIST office, but we wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Finally, we remember that we lost students, staff and family members from the CEIST community in 2019. We remember them all with love and gratitude and may eternal rest shine upon them.

Dr Marie Griffin
CEO

CEIST and the Education Demographics in 2019

CEIST is a large organisation, having patronage responsibilities for 107 schools. CEIST schools provided second-level education for just over 31% (59,071) of the students in the Catholic voluntary secondary sector in Ireland in September 2019. They provided for just over 16% of the second-level students nationally, despite having just under 15% of schools. 79% of CEIST students were female and 21% male. 44 (41%) schools under CEIST patronage are co-educational. Students with special educational needs made up 10% of pupils while Traveller students were 1% of students and EAL (English as an Additional Language) students 2%.



While enrolments in some CEIST schools are rising at a rapid rate, as per the national projections, others are falling for demographic reasons. The uneven spread of enrolments is a challenge. 6% of CEIST students are in schools of under 300 pupils while 19% are in schools of over 900 pupils. Smaller schools are under pressure financially because of decreased capitation funding and the reduction in State funding since the recession. In 2019, for these and other reasons, CEIST made the decision to close one rural school, a decision which was subsequently rescinded because of enhanced funding received from DES, and was engaged in amalgamation processes in a further four schools (Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon, St Brigid's College Callan, Our Lady's College Galway City and Caritas College, Ballyfermot).

A further two schools (Mercy Secondary School Goldenbridge and Presentation College Warrenmount), both with DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) status, made decisions to move from single sex to co-educational status for demographic reasons.



The new school building at Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway.

Larger schools are challenged for space and infrastructure. Schools such as St Joseph's Secondary School Rush and Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan are awaiting new school buildings to cater for greatly increased student numbers. Other schools in commuter areas, such as Coláiste Íosagáin Portarlinton and Scoil Dara Kilcock need significant building projects as do schools such as St Brigid's Secondary School Killarney, among many others. Managing large numbers of students in buildings that simply were not designed or built for such numbers is a challenge as each school management strives to provide the best possible environment for their pupils. Happily, Eureka Secondary School Kells and Presentation College Athenry moved into state-of-the-art new buildings in 2019.



The new school building at Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co Meath.

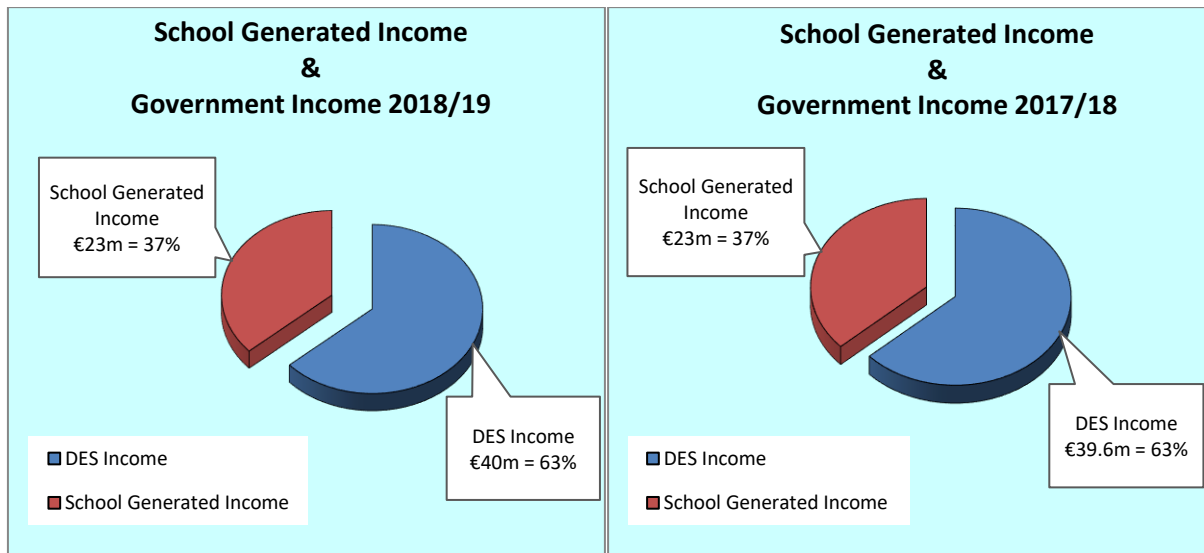
CEIST School Funding from Government Sources

The independent study, "Governance and Funding of Voluntary Secondary Schools in Ireland" (ESRI – October 2013), states that:

"survey findings show that (non-fee-paying) voluntary secondary schools receive just over two-thirds of their funding from government sources while the vast majority of schools in other sectors receive a much higher proportion of funding from the state (90 per cent in vocational schools and 93 per cent in community/comprehensive schools).

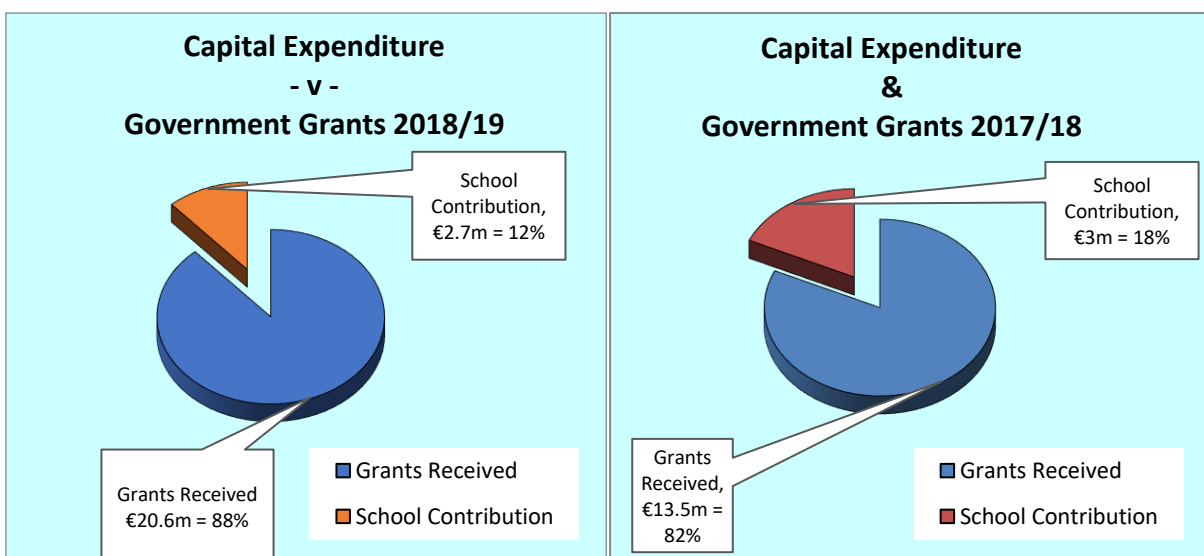
The graph below is broadly in line with this figure indicating that only 63% of CEIST school income in both the 2017/18 school year and the 2018/19 school year (as determined by CEIST) came from government sources.

The increases announced in Budget 2020, giving an increased Capitation Grant, Special Class Grant and Traveller Grant are welcome. However, funding is still not back to pre-recession levels. The School Salary Grant deduction from the standard Capitation Grant of €562 per each permanent/CID whole time equivalent teacher was also reduced by 20% in Budget 2020. This deduction is only made in voluntary secondary schools and is a major factor in the voluntary secondary sector receiving less funding than other school sectors. Hopefully, there will be a complete elimination of the School Salary Grant deductions over the coming years, leading to more equalisation of funding to Voluntary Secondary Schools



CEIST Schools' Capital Expenditure 2018/19 - Funding

It is worth noting that the cost of capital expenditure in CEIST schools during the 2018/19 school year (as determined by CEIST) amounted to €23.3m. Of this amount, the schools provided €2.7m (12%) from their own funds. Ultimately a large proportion of this €2.7m was paid for by parents either by way of fundraising or contributions.



CEIST Strategic Plan 2017-2020

In early 2017, following consultation with all stakeholders, CEIST adopted a new Strategic Plan to inform its work for the four years to 2020. The Plan has proved very useful in guiding the work of CEIST. (the Strategic Plan is available on the CEIST website www.ceist.ie). The three Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020 will form the main headings under which the activity of CEIST is outlined in this Annual Report for 2019. (The Objectives and subheadings of the Plan are noted below in bold type.)

Objective 1

CEIST will continue to articulate its distinctive charism as a Catholic Education Trust and strive to ensure that all stakeholders understand and appreciate the distinct nature of Catholic education.

Members, Directors and Executive will have engaged with the Founding Congregations to deepen their understanding of the founding intentions and explore how these find contemporary expression. CEIST will work with EDUCENA on this objective.

- The Chairperson (and CEO on one occasion) of CEIST met with the CEIST Members on two occasions in 2019, apart from the AGM, to keep the Members apprised of the work of CEIST.
- A joint Board meeting of CEIST and EDUCENA was held in August 2019. Gerry Lundy, Coordinator of the new Strategic Plan for Catholic second-level education in the Republic of Ireland, addressed the meeting and outlined the developments in the Plan as well as the projected timeline for final delivery of the new structures. Seamus Lynch, a researcher who has been conducting research on levels of Capital Grant Aid received by CEIST schools on behalf of CEIST and EDUCENA, presented a summary of the previous three years' work.
- The CEIST Executive held two days of reflection during 2019. The first reflection was led by the Franciscan, Fr Kieran Cronin, and was an introduction to the religious philosophy of St Francis, important for the CEIST team who will assume patronage responsibility for Gormanston College, a Franciscan school, in the near future. The second reflection centred on a Mass of thanks, celebrated by Fr Paul Connell, on the occasion of her retirement, for the contribution to CEIST of Catherine McCormack, CEIST Faith and Leadership Coordinator. Catherine's parents, husband and children attended the Mass, which was held during the Christmas season and, while tinged with sadness for her loss, was an expression of warmth and gratitude for Catherine's years with CEIST.

CEIST will exercise the trustee role in community schools of which the founding congregations are co-trustees, where requested to do so.

- In August 2019, Sean McCann stepped down from his role as CEIST School Coordinator for Community Schools and designated Community Colleges of which the Mercy and Presentation congregations are joint patrons or patron partners. Pádraigín Uí Riordáin, former Principal of Mount Mercy College in Cork and a former CEO of Clare VEC, took up the role and continued the process of developing the agency role of CEIST in the 33 schools involved. A key feature of this role has been to work in partnership with the joint patrons and partner patrons, especially the CEOs of the relevant ETBs. One of the main pieces of work in 2019 was beginning the process of developing a characteristic spirit for community schools that acknowledged the multid denominational nature of joint patronage and outlined the richness of all the founding traditions.

- In June, the inaugural CEIST meeting with Community School Principals was held and Barrister Dr Claire Hogan spoke on the legal background for Community Schools. There was also an ethos input from CEIST. Community School Principals were invited to attend the CEIST Conference in September. The CEO attended the inaugural meeting of the Association of Joint Patrons of Community and Comprehensive Schools in Mullingar on February 26th, 2019 and chaired one of the meeting sessions.



Castlerea Community School, Co. Roscommon celebrated the 25th anniversary of its opening in 2019

CEIST will engage with parents of students in CEIST schools as the primary educators of their children.

- In 2018, a parent was appointed to the CEIST Board as a Director and continued in this role in 2019. As part of the (unsuccessful) application for patronage of a new second-level school in Citywest, CEIST engaged extensively with local parents. Working in cooperation with ERST (Edmund Rice Schools' Trust) and the local Diocesan Office, CEIST sought to organise a meeting for parents of students in Catholic second-level schools in Carlow in the Autumn of 2019. As the response indicated that a small number would attend, it was agreed by all to defer the meeting and engage in more discussion with school parent organisations before rearranging the meeting.

CEIST schools will continue to educate in an environment where students are inspired and enabled to direct their lives in accordance with Gospel values and to contribute to the overall good of society.

- As part of the annual in-service training for the Board of Directors of CEIST, there was a focus on the Strategic Plan for Catholic Education at Second-level being developed under the aegis of the Catholic Education Services Committee.
- During 2019, the CEIST website chronicled the examples of CEIST school communities that lived their Gospel values and promoted Catholic Social Justice issues. Examples included the many Catholic social justice campaigns in which schools are engaged.
- Other schools were involved in climate justice initiatives and pilgrimages. Schools placed the liturgical year at the centre of their community activities.
- In 2019, CEIST School Coordinators continued delivery, to a larger number of schools, of Student Council Training in CEIST schools. This training was developed in cooperation with the Edmund Rice Schools' Trust (ERST) and focuses on being a student in a Catholic CEIST school.

CEIST schools continue to be supported in building a recognisable identity for themselves as part of the CEIST community.

- The CEIST 2019 Annual Conference took place on September 26th and 27th in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone. The theme of the 2019 conference was “**CEIST: *Intentional Catholic Schools***”. Over 170 participants attended from CEIST schools. On the first day, the keynote address was given by Dr John Lydon from St Mary’s University, London on “*Leadership Ideals in the 21st Century: Servant and Christ-Centred Leadership*”. The outgoing CEO, Dr Marie Griffin, outlined some of the highlights of the previous year and the incoming CEO, Clare Ryan, made a presentation on her goals for her new role. Clare was warmly welcomed by the conference participants. Three CEIST schools highlighted initiatives in which they had engaged for sharing with the wider CEIST school community. Franciscan Fr Joe Condrón celebrated Mass on Friday morning and delivered an uplifting homily. The keynote address on Friday was by Dr Lorna Gold, of Trócaire, on “*Laudato Si*” and what schools can do to respond to the papal encyclical.
- Three recently retired Principals and three Deputy Principals received presentations at the Conference for their contribution to CEIST. Candles were presented to Deputy Principals and Principals new to CEIST schools to welcome them to the CEIST family. Following workshops on both days and the Conference dinner, Tom Gunning led the scattering Prayer and distributed acorns and beech nuts from his Parable Garden, to be planted by all participants as a tangible response to caring for our common home.
- The annual CEIST golf classic, again sponsored by ALLIANZ, took place on the morning of September 27th, 2019. There was strong competition for the prizes and a very enjoyable morning was had by all.



The Choir from Presentation Secondary School Thurles, Co. Tipperary that performed at the CEIST Conference on 26th September 2019.

- A Principal Network meeting took place in June 2019 in Mount St Anne's, Killenard. The planned December meetings were deferred until the new CEO took up office in early 2020. Professor Patricia Casey made a presentation on the positive benefits of religion to positive mental health. The presentation focused on the available scientific research on the topic and Professor Casey also drew on her extensive clinical experience. The Chairperson of CEIST also gave an update on the CESC Strategic Plan for Catholic Second-level education.
- Deputy Principal Network meetings took place in four locations in January 2019. Kate Liffey, Director of the Council for Catechetics attended two of the meetings to highlight the ongoing NCCA consultation on RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education). Sessions also included innovations being carried out by CEIST Deputy Principals in schools.
- The fifth CEIST Bake-off took place in March 2019 in Ardscoil Na Tríonóide, Athy, the school that organises the event for the CEIST community. There were seven finalists in each of the Junior and Senior categories. The Junior winner was Sarah Clifford from St. Mary's Secondary School Mallow, and the Senior winner was Aoife Kelly from St Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla. CEIST would like to acknowledge the contributions of all involved in organising the 2019 Bake Off as well as the teachers and students who entered the competition. CEIST would also like to acknowledge the sponsorship of Odlums for the first five years of the competition and the masterful judging by Catherine Leyden of Odlums (see below).

	
<p><i>Junior winner Sarah Clifford from St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow</i></p>	<p><i>Senior winner Aoife Kelly from St Joseph's Secondary School Tulla.</i></p>

CEIST Website

The CEIST website, upgraded in April 2018, is very user friendly and will display equally on all ICT platforms such as desktop, laptop, tablet or phone. The CEIST website is easy to navigate but still packed with helpful information such as details of CEIST and its founding congregations, resources for RE Teachers, CEIST office vacancies, CEIST school Principal/Deputy Principal vacancies, CEIST events and other news of interest. Each school has its own page which is used to display school information, school news and contact details. There is also an interactive map and links to school website/social media sites. The website address is www.ceist.ie

CEIST E-Newsletter

The CEIST e-news is published monthly during the school term, beginning in September and ending in June of each year. The newsletter is used to profile news from both the Trust and each of our schools. Schools are encouraged to submit news pieces which they would like to be included to the CEIST office. The newsletter has an email subscription but is also hosted on the CEIST website. There are currently 447 subscribers to the CEIST newsletter. This is an increase of 19% from 2018.

Social Media

CEIST now has three social media accounts - Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. As the Facebook and Instagram pages are relatively new, CEIST continues to use Twitter as its main social media platform. 95% of CEIST schools have a school Twitter account. These schools use Twitter to broadcast news and events occurring in their school and surrounding area. CEIST can follow the schools through our own Twitter account. The CEIST Twitter subscription has grown by 15% from 2018 to over 4,600 followers. CEIST uses all social media accounts to advertise CEIST events, news and job vacancies. Although CEIST social media accounts are linked to the CEIST website their individual addresses are also listed below.

Facebook:	www.facebook.com/ceist2
Instagram:	www.instagram.com/ceist1
Twitter:	www.twitter.com/ceist1

CEIST schools will continue to be challenged to provide educational opportunities for all students, including those who are disadvantaged, marginalised or have special educational needs.

- The Nano Nagle Assistance Fund (established by the Presentation Sisters North East Province for all CEIST schools) provides assistance to students who are experiencing hardship to enable them to complete their education. To the end of 2019, €44,975 had been distributed to 130 pupils from 37 Schools. The fund was launched in Autumn 2018.
- The inclusive ethos in CEIST schools was noted in Whole School Evaluation reports published in 2019 e.g.

"The school has taken an innovative approach to the coordination of support for students with special educational needs (SEN). A member of the SEN team is assigned to each year group." (Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee).

"Very good practices are in place to identify and support students with special educational needs (SEN)." (Scoil Dara, Kilcock).

"It is clear that the school strives to be an inclusive school. This is evident in the caring atmosphere and the respectful interactions of staff and students, as well as in the school's response to the emerging needs of its students." (Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel).

"Student care is central to the ethos of the school; provision for students with special educational needs (SEN) is very good." (Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise).

"Very good structures are in place to support students with SEN, outlined in the detailed SEN policy." (St Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge).

"The SEN team is well-organised and communicate very well with the staff body." (Mount Mercy College, Cork).

"The school is very inclusive in keeping with the ethos of the Sisters of Mercy.... Care for students is of a very high standard." (Scoil Bhríde, Tuam)

"The support for students with SEN is planned very effectively. ...Student care permeates school life, with all teachers providing elements of it to students." (Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna)

- There are fourteen DEIS schools in the CEIST network. To further support those schools, CEIST is one of the sponsors of research by Dr Judith Harford and Dr Brian Fleming of UCD that aims;
 - a) To capture the reality of life in a range of DEIS schools, detailing the challenges facing all of those within the school community, principal, staff, students and parents. If this has an impact on the policy makers in Irish education at national level prompting them to provide more support to DEIS schools generally that would be a very welcome development and
 - b) To illustrate how each school is unique and explain the factors that bring this about to provide an evidence base which will, hopefully, begin to focus more clearly on the individual nature of schools and reflect this in the Department of Education and Skills (DES) approach to various issues and processes.

This research will be completed in 2020.

CEIST schools will continue to be provided with varied opportunities to promote their ethos.

- An Induction Course for new Principals was held on August 16th, 2019, covering Governance, Finance & Ethos.
- An Induction Course for new Deputy Principals was held on August 19th, 2019 covering Governance & Ethos.
- Two 'Leadership in a Catholic School' courses were run by CEIST during 2019; one in Kilkenny in the Spring and one in the Emmaus Centre, Dublin in August. Both courses filled immediately (capacity is 40 teachers), despite teachers having to participate out of school time. Input included Leading a Faith School, Spirituality, Understanding Yourself and Leading through the lens of the CEIST Gospel values.
- Ethos induction for Teachers new to CEIST Schools took place in Portlaoise on September 10th, 2019. 78 teachers attended. Acknowledging that it is difficult for teachers from all over the country to attend at one location, it was agreed to consider regional sessions in future.
- To help foster positive and fruitful relationships at school senior management level, CEIST organised a meeting for schools with more than one Deputy Principal to look at Management relationships and coaching options. This meeting was held in partnership with the Centre for School Leadership.
- The CEIST award was presented in CEIST schools to those students who, in 2019, best lived out the CEIST values in their schools.

CEIST schools will be engaged in, or have completed, the first cycle of the CSP process "Understanding and Living the Ethos in a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School."

- This CSP process is being revised for second-level schools.
- The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) School Culture Initiative concluded in three Kerry schools in May 2019. The process, under the guidance of Jonathan Tiernan, Director of ACE, involved carrying out a School Culture Audit, Determining Root Beliefs, Identifying the core Values and then considering the impact on Actions & Behaviour. The end result encouraged stronger commitment to being a Catholic Teacher. All three schools found the two-year programme to be very worthwhile, allowing for a full-staff approach to the purpose and values of these individual Catholic schools. Following an evaluation, ACE and CEIST agreed to work with six schools on a year-long school culture programme in the 2019/2020 school year. Three of the schools are in the Galway area and three in Cork/Waterford.

CEIST schools will allocate the directed time and emphasis to Religious Education (RE).

- CEIST schools complete an online annual statistics form. One of the questions concerns the provision of two hours per week of RE, as outlined by the Irish Episcopal Conference and CEIST. This statistics form is discussed as part of the annual formal school visit carried out in each CEIST school by CEIST Faith, Leadership and Governance Coordinators. A small number of schools are not providing the two-hour provision for each year group. Addressing this matter remains a priority for the Board of CEIST.

A selection of photographs from the CEIST Student Leadership Conference held in DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 on the 20th March 2019



*Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk,
Tralee, Co. Kerry*



*Scoil Muire agus Pádraig Swinford,
Co. Mayo*



St Joseph's Secondary School Spanish Point, Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon, Coláiste Muire Ennis, Mary Immaculate Secondary School Lisdoonvarna, St Joseph's Secondary School Tulla, Co. Clare



*St Mary's Secondary School New Ross,
Co. Wexford*



*Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School Drimmagh,
Dublin 12*



*St Joseph's Secondary School Navan,
Co. Meath*

Objective 2

CEIST will ensure that robust and respectfully operated systems of governance are in place.

A Memorandum of Understanding relating to operational matters will be agreed and put in place between CEIST and EDUCENA.

- CEIST and EDUCENA agreed a Memorandum of Understanding on operational matters at both Board and Executive levels. The CEO of CEIST now attends EDUCENA Board meetings and the CEO of EDUCENA attends CEIST Board meetings. This arrangement is most useful in sharing information and progress.

An agreed reporting mechanism from the Executive to the Board will be reviewed annually.

- The agreed reporting mechanism under the Strategic Plan 2017-2020 continued in 2019.

CEIST office operational management systems will be regularly reviewed and updated.

- In 2019, a decision was made to migrate the CEIST fileserver to a cloud environment. This was necessary because of outdated and now unsupported systems. The migration was accomplished using the current Microsoft Office 365 licence at no extra cost. The full project was completed in February 2020.

CEIST will continue to promote excellent corporate governance.

- In 2019, the CEIST Board of Directors held eight meetings (January 31st, March 21st, May 7th, June 13th, August 21st, September 26th, November 7th and December 12th) as well as five Conference call meetings. The August meeting included in-service training and took place over August 21st and 22nd.
- The AGM of the Company took place on May 7th, 2019.
- The CEIST Audit Committee held seven meetings during 2019.

Strategies will be devised to support the viability of schools in financial difficulty, in areas of demographic challenge and/or economic hardship.

- In 2019, CEIST engaged with a small number of schools experiencing financial difficulty. Operational support and advice were provided to Finance Sub-committees, school Administrative Staff and Boards of Management and there was regular engagement with school Accountants and Principals to identify areas for cost savings etc.

Smaller schools are under pressure financially because of decreased capitation funding and the reduction in State funding since the recession. In 2019, for these and other reasons, CEIST made the decision to close one rural school, a decision which was subsequently rescinded because of enhanced funding received from DES, and was engaged in amalgamation processes in a further four schools (Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon, St Brigid's College Callan, Our Lady's College Galway City and Caritas College, Ballyfermot).

- Some schools experienced financial difficulties or face the prospect of financial difficulty. We have identified the following as being the most common reasons for CEIST schools finding themselves in difficulty from a financial viability perspective:
 - Reduction in pupil numbers in some of our inner-city schools, mainly as a result of the changing demographics in the cities in which they are located.
 - Schools experiencing a reduction in pupil numbers due to competition from other schools.
 - Overspends on school capital works.
 - Poor financial management and financial reporting to the Board of Management.
- In order to monitor our schools that show symptoms of financial stress, updated reports on current schools in financial difficulty and schools showing symptoms of potential stress are presented regularly to the CEIST Audit Committee. These reports are reviewed and discussed in detail by the CEIST Audit Committee and the CEIST Board of Directors. Schools identified as being “at risk” are monitored closely. CEIST works with these schools to encourage an increase in income and decrease in expenditure so that they might return to financial viability. It is worth noting that some schools that have experienced financial difficulty or the prospect of financial difficulty, have returned to a financially viable position as a result of engaging with CEIST and taking on board recommendations.
- Good governance in schools was noted in Department of Education and Skills inspection reports published in 2019:

“The current board of management is newly appointed and in place since November 2018. It is appropriately constituted, and all members are aware of their roles and responsibilities.” (Scoil na Tríonóide Naofa, Doon, Co Limerick).

“The board and senior management manage school budgets, staff recruitment and the maintenance of the school facilities very effectively. Statutory policies, such as the child safeguarding statement and anti-bullying, are in place and there is a suitable rolling review of all policies so that the board is aware of the number of policies each year that are in need of review and ratification. Detailed minutes of board meetings are maintained, and meetings are informed by the principal’s report. Agreed written reports are provided to the staff.” (Scoil Bhríde, Tuam).

“The quality of governance is very good. Many members of the board have strong personal links to the school and are deeply committed to the school’s continuation and development. Board minutes reflect a focus on prudent budgeting and accounting for financial resources, on reporting to the trustees, on child protection reporting, and on seeking presentations and reports on aspects of teaching and learning.” (Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna).

CEIST will continue to foster an environment of trust and respectful communication with its schools.

- The CEIST Executive is grateful to schools for their continued engagement, hospitality and assistance in so many ways throughout 2019.
- CEIST School Coordinators attended meetings of Inspectors with Boards of Management before and after the ten Whole School Evaluations in CEIST schools in 2019. Many of these evaluations highlighted the living ethos in CEIST schools:

“The ethos as a lived experience for the students is a guiding principle in the making of decisions, and the holistic development of the student, is also of great importance.” (Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk, Tralee).

"Members of the board articulated their vision for the school's future in terms of continuing to provide a holistic educational experience underpinned by CEIST values, whereby students are enabled to gradually progress from dependence to responsibility for self, society and the world. The recent development of a new school crest and its motto Tada gan larracht (nothing without effort) espouses this vision." (Scoil Dara, Kilcock).

"A very positive culture exists, and the school's values are modelled by management and staff and encouraged in students." (Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise).

"They are reflective and consultative, and have a clear vision for the school, underpinned by CEIST values and the school's mission statement to provide a holistic education for all." (St Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge).

"Many members of the board of management have strong personal links to the school and are deeply committed to its ongoing development. The senior management team has a holistic, well-researched vision of how the school now needs to evolve, while also conscious of leading the school's implementation of its CEIST values. The senior management team consistently communicates that vision through staff meeting inputs, assemblies with students, meetings with parents, and internal and external communication channels." (Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick).

"The board, senior management team, and staff are dedicated to the school and conscious of the responsibility that they bear in bringing to life the values of the CEIST charter and the school's mission statement." (Mount Mercy College, Cork).

"The senior management team is deeply conscious of leading the school's implementation of its CEIST values and of continuing to adapt its curriculum to ensure the development of the school, while linking with community needs and causes." (Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna).

CEIST will continue to ensure that Boards of Management understand and fulfil their responsibility and accountability to the Trust.

- Annual School Budgets. Article 15(c) of the *Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools* sets out that the school Board of Management should prepare a budget each year and submit same to the Trustees. It is a CEIST requirement that the budgets in respect of the school year commencing on the 1st September be submitted to the CEIST Education Office. The deadline for submission of annual school budgets to the Trustees is the 31st May each year.
- Annual School Accounts. There have been some changes to the submission process of the school Annual Accounts:
 - No longer necessary to post a hard copy of the school Annual Accounts to CEIST or the FSSU
 - The school Accountant, in addition to inputting the school Trial Balance to the FSSU'S on-line system, will now also upload a PDF version of the approved/signed Annual Accounts to the FSSU System.
 - **It is important to note that the Accounts cannot be uploaded until the Trustees have reviewed the Accounts and the school has received their Trustee Declaration from CEIST**
 - The school Annual Accounts will now be accompanied by a separate Confirmation Letter which must be completed by the Board of Management. The school Accountant will also submit the data within this confirmation letter to the FSSU on-line portal.

The above processes will ensure compliance for the Board of Management with CEIST, the Department of Education & Skills, the Central Statistics Office and the Charities Regulator.

- Approval, by CΕΙΣΤ, of all Capital Expenditure by CΕΙΣΤ Schools. Article 27 of the *Articles of Management for Catholic Secondary Schools* states:
 - (a) *Any extension, improvement or replacement of school building requires Trustee approval*
 - (b) *Hire purchase/lease agreements, bank loans, overdrafts or any other loan may not be arranged without prior Trustee approval*
 - (c) *All Capital Expenditure including Summer Works Scheme, and expenditure above the permitted level (€2,500 per 100 pupils (once off per annum)), must be approved separately by the Trustees.*

Through continuous training, schools continue to be made aware of their obligation under Articles 27 & 28 of the Articles of Management to seek CΕΙΣΤ approval in relation to school capital works prior to such works being initiated. Applications should be made on the Appendix V form, which is then brought to the CΕΙΣΤ Board for consideration and, where applicable, to the EDUCENA Board.

There continues to be an improvement in the compliance rate of schools completing the application form seeking permission from the Trustees to carry out Capital Expenditure at their schools. A log of school property queries & requests for additions/repairs/improvements is maintained for the attention of the respective CEOs of both CΕΙΣΤ and The EDUCENA Foundation for appropriate action.

In October 2019, 44 new Boards of Management were appointed to CΕΙΣΤ schools. As always, finding committed and available Trustee nominees can be challenging. CΕΙΣΤ is indebted to all those members of Boards of Management who give of their time, expertise and experience for the benefit of the students in CΕΙΣΤ schools. To assist the Boards, CΕΙΣΤ engages in training by means of the following:

- Board of Management Training (in association with AMCSS (Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools)/ JMB (Joint Managerial Body) in November 2019 covering Governance, Finance & Ethos. CΕΙΣΤ attended all eight workshops to provide ethos training to Boards of Management from CΕΙΣΤ schools and to assist generally with the training.
- Individual Board of Management Training for the 44 new CΕΙΣΤ Boards. October-December 2019 covering Governance & Ethos.
- Chairpersons' Day. October 22nd, 2019 covering Governance & Human Resources. Mary Hough, Chairperson of the Board of Management in Mercy College, Sligo, former Director of Sligo Education Centre and much-experienced presenter on Child Protection matters, gave a very worthwhile presentation on the implications of the new child Protection measures for Boards. Presentations were also made by the CΕΙΣΤ Executive on ethos, finance and governance.
- CΕΙΣΤ organised meetings in 5 locations (City North, Kilkenny, Mallow, Galway and Sligo) in the Spring of 2019 for Boards of Management to provide Finance (and Health and Safety) training with a focus on Board of Management responsibility in these areas.
- The CΕΙΣΤ Office Accountant provided individual finance training to three schools in 2019.

CΕΙΣΤ will continue to ensure that there is regular and robust reporting on finance and relevant school matters from schools to the Executive.

- In 2019, support was offered to schools by the CΕΙΣΤ Finance Manager and CΕΙΣΤ School Coordinators in the area of financial reporting. The reduced number of Accountants now working with CΕΙΣΤ schools helps to ensure that there is consistent and timely reporting.

CEIST will embed the practice of formal school visits.

- In the 2018-2019 school year, every school received a formal school visit from their CEIST School Coordinator. Trustee matters, including the school's ethos in practice, were discussed at each visit. Each school received a letter following the Coordinator's visit, outlining the main issues discussed.

CEIST will continue to support school Boards of Management in the appointment of leaders personally committed to the Catholic ethos and characteristic spirit of CEIST schools.

- In 2019, CEIST supported Boards of Management in the appointment of six new school Principals, one of those in an acting capacity. 20 new Deputy Principal appointment processes were also supported by the CEIST team, seven of those in an acting capacity. From meeting the Board of Management to outline the recruitment process, to carrying out a needs analysis where required and then engaging in the actual selection itself, recruitment processes involve a substantial time commitment from CEIST. However, the recruitment of senior leaders is of vital importance in school life and in ensuring mission transmission and continues to be one of the most important roles of the Trust.
- The AMCSS (Association of Managers of Catholic Secondary Schools) provided an update on changes to the Competency Training for CEIST nominees to Selection Boards on March 8th in the CEIST Offices in Kill.
- CEIST engaged with a Health & Safety training company (Europlan) and secured a very competitive rate for CEIST schools throughout the country who wished to use their services for the development of school Health and Safety plans.

The Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo pictured in Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin during a recent visit to the school.



Objective 3

CEIST will be proactive in building relationships that will further the provision of Catholic Education in Ireland.

CEIST will enhance professional relationships between CEIST & CEIST stakeholders and will continue to provide ethos in-service opportunities for CEIST schools.

- In 2019, in-service training was provided for Religious Education (RE) teachers in Castlebar, Athlone and Cork in January and February. 109 RE teachers attended. There was a focus on the new RE framework for Junior Cycle and presentations were given at each venue by the author of the new VERITAS publication (“Soulseekers”) for Junior Cycle RE, Tom Gunning. Mary Glynn of DCU made a presentation on Mindfulness at each session. RE teachers also shared successful initiatives in their schools.
- On March 20th, 2019, the CEIST Student Leadership Conference took place in St Patrick’s campus, DCU. 254 students from CEIST schools attended, with 73 accompanying teachers. The Conference was opened and blessed by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and addressed by Professor Daire Keogh, Vice President of DCU, and by Minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor. Students attended workshops on the topic of “Sharing our Common Home” and their own leadership initiatives in schools.
- In 2019, CEIST continued its partnership with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) on the school culture and ethos initiative.

CEIST will, as a provider of faith-based education at second-level, have clarified and established its identity as an authoritative voice for Catholic education.

- This is ongoing work and will continue to receive attention by the Board and Executive of CEIST.

CEIST will have a role in commenting publicly on issues that impact on CEIST schools.

- The CEO attended a conference “Contemporary Issues Facing Catholic Schools” in the Notre Dame Global Gateway in London and moderated one of the sessions.
- The CEO had an article published in the Spring 2019 issue of Studies entitled “Catholic Schools in Ireland Today – A Changing Sector in a Time of Change”.

CEIST will continue to cultivate greater cohesiveness within the wider Catholic education community.

- The relatively new programme, Graduate Certificate in Christian Leadership, that Mary Immaculate College introduced in 2018 and which was piloted in Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk, Tralee, continued in 2019 in SMA House Claregalway and in Tobar Mhuire Retreat and Conference Centre, Galway. The programme is a level nine award from the University of Limerick and carries 15 ECTS and runs over five Saturdays. It will run again in 2020 in Dalgan Park, Navan, and is an ideal complement to Leadership in Education programmes that many teachers have undertaken in recent years as it addresses specifically the questions of ethos and faith formation for those in, or aspiring to, leadership positions within faith-based schools.
- Following his work with the Working Group established by the Catholic Education Services Committee to develop a Plan for the future of Catholic second-level education in Ireland, Mr Bernard Keeley, Chairperson of CEIST, continued in his role in the Implementation Group to put the Plan into action. The implementation Group completed its work in December 2019 when the

new companies under the structure were agreed by all stakeholders and the legal process for incorporation and attaining charitable status was put into place.

- A number of the School Coordinators maintained regular contact with Diocesan Advisors to discuss topics of shared interest.
- The CEIST CEO continued as Honorary Secretary of the Board of the Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools, an organisation that represents the interest of Trustees of Catholic schools in Ireland.
- The CEIST CEO also continued as a member of the Catholic Schools' Partnership (CSP). The CSP is an association established by the Irish Bishop's Conference and the Conference of Religious of Ireland. It was formally launched in 2010 to, inter alia, foster coherence in Catholic Education at a national level.

CEIST will continue to approach other agencies in a spirit of trust and willingness to share information and expertise.

- During 2019, as part of its involvement with the Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools (ATCS) and otherwise, CEIST worked with other Trust bodies and education providers. CEIST is working with ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust) on amalgamations in Callan and Ennistymon and with Clare Limerick ETB to provide a new Community School in Ennistymon. CEIST is also working with Le Chéile towards a possible amalgamation of three schools in Ballyfermot and with the Diocese of Galway towards an amalgamation of Our Lady's College and St Mary's College in 2021.
- As outlined, CEIST liaised with AMCSS/JMB for the provision of Board of Management training. CEIST also engaged with AMCSS/JMB on the new Education (Admissions to Schools) Act (2018) and the implications thereof for CEIST schools.
- CEIST liaised with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on the new Religious Education and Relationships and Sexuality curricula.
- The CEIST CEO was a member of the Trustees and An tÚdaras Rialaithe of Mary Immaculate Teacher Education College, Limerick.
- CEIST engaged with the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS) to enhance its agency role on behalf of the Mercy and Presentation Sisters.
- CEIST engaged with the Centre for School Leadership in the development of a shared calendar for the second-level school sector.

CEIST will continue to work to minimise unnecessary duplication of reporting and training through enhanced cooperation with other education agencies.

- The CEIST executive engages on a regular basis with AMCSS / JMB (Joint Managerial Body) to ensure a coordinated approach from the respective management and patron perspectives to schools.
- CEIST was also a participant in workshops with the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) to discuss how training across the second-level sector could be co-ordinated and enhanced.

CEIST - 2019 Financial Performance

The CEIST Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2019 are prepared in accordance with The Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102.

Financial Summary

	2019	2018
	€'000	€'000
<u>Income</u>		
EDUCENA Funding	512	554
Licence Fees	391	325
Sponsorship/Donations	15	15
Miscellaneous Income	<u>44</u>	<u>67</u>
	<u>962</u>	<u>961</u>
 <u>Administrative Costs</u>		
Employee Costs	650	655
Depreciation	10	20
Rent	26	26
Travel and Subsistence	49	52
Website Development IT Costs	19	22
Rationalisation of Schools	39	19
Student Conference/Training/Publications/World Meeting of Families	27	72
Ethos Development	22	15
Other Costs	<u>130</u>	<u>99</u>
	<u>972</u>	<u>980</u>
(Excess) of Expenses over Income	<u>(10)</u>	<u>(19)</u>

No internal control issues arose from the audit of the CEIST Company Limited by Guarantee Financial Statements in respect of the year ended 31st December 2019.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Bernard Keeley

Chairperson

Ms Freda Nolan

Deputy Chairperson

Mrs Anne McDonagh

Canon Brendan Kilcoyne

Mr John O'Donovan

Mr Eugene O'Sullivan

Sr Mary Rossiter

Mrs Anne McDonnell

Mr Donal Cronin

Mr David Cox

Ms Maria O' Rourke

Sr Margaret Farrell

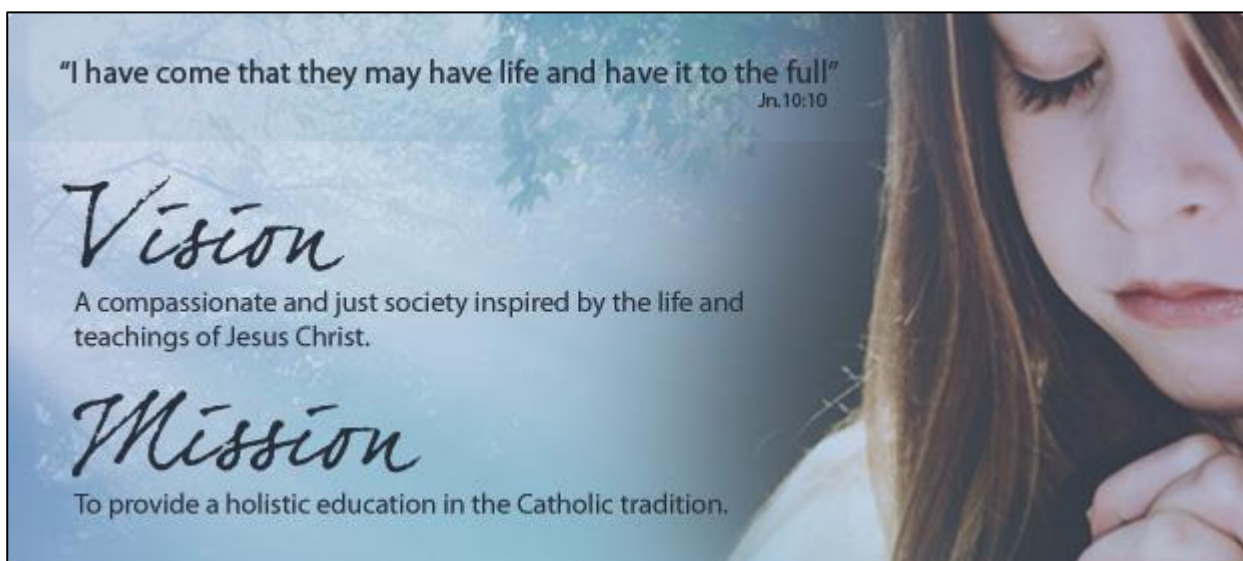
Audit Committee

Mr John O'Donovan

Chairperson

Ms Freda Nolan

Sr Mary Rossiter



CEISC STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Marie Griffin to November 30th, 2019

Clare Ryan from January 2nd, 2020

Faith Leadership and Governance Coordinators

Catherine McCormack

Gerry McGuill

Gerry Watchorn

Colin Roddy

Coordinator for Community Schools and Designated Community Colleges

Sean McCann to August 31st, 2019

Pádraigín Uí Riordáin from September 9th, 2019

Finance Officer

Bernadette McKeown

Information and Communications Systems Manager

David Conway

Administration

Rosemary Greene

Centenary Celebrations in Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe.

Ardscoil Mhuire held a year of celebration to mark its Centenary during 2019. Many events were held throughout the year in the school, and in the community, including an Art exhibition and Heritage Day. The celebrations kicked off on the 11th February in the Chapel Gallery with a collection of artistic work.

On Saturday the 9th March they held their Heritage Day where they celebrated the contribution of women to society and the vital role that education had in enabling them to do so. Staff past and present, students past and present, parents and members of the public came together to celebrate the Centenary of Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe. The day began with the arrival of Mairead McGuinness MEP, for the official opening. Mairead spoke powerfully of the importance of education, now more than ever, in our society. She spoke of the importance of working together to create a better society for all. She reminisced on her own time in school and acknowledged the role of the Mercy sisters in educating the young women of Ireland.

Throughout the day, the wonderful school choir and group entertained the audience. Included in the exhibits were recordings of interviews with many past students as well as recorded messages from past students who could not be there on the day. Geraldine Lynagh sent a lovely message from outside the Four Courts, a place she regularly reports from with Virgin Media TV. Aime Doherty sent her good wishes from Hollywood, where she is forging a very successful career in composing for the movies. Caroline Curley, airline pilot with Aer Lingus sent her good wishes also.

A collection of interviews with past and present staff and students was gathered throughout the year including "Three Generations of ASM Students".



Patricia Kilgallen, Principal of Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe, presents flowers to Mairead McGuinness MEP following her official opening of Ardscoil Mhuire 100 Heritage Day. Also pictured are (L-R) Aisling Doherty and Rachel Whyte Student Council Presidents.



Sr Mary Corcoran lights the remembrance candle during the Ardscoil Mhuire Centenary Mercy Day Mass on Saturday 21st September, 2019



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