

Annual Report of the Board of Management 2025

School Ethos Our school participated in masses at the beginning and end of school year 2025/2026, St Bridget's Day, St Patricks Day, Ash Wednesday, Confessions, sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Christmas Carol Service and Graduation Mass. Fr O Gorman is a very welcome visitors to the school. Sr Maria Comerford made a Diocesan Advisory visit to our school and Sr Maria complimented our efforts to promote the Catholic ethos in Urlingford NS.

Health + Safety and Supervision – Our schools Health and Safety Rep Anthony O Grady and Health and Safety Officer Mr Doyle undertake Health and Safety Walks every Half Term. Supervision is a major part of avoiding unwanted accidents and incidents on yard at Break Time. Good supervision before school, at breaktimes and when pupils are exiting our school helps minimise possible instances of bad behaviour. This year our school devised a Supervision Policy. A copy of our schools Supervision Policy is available on school website www.urlingfordns.com Our school is a Bi Cinealta school. Classes receive reminders daily re good Bi Cinelata practices.

SNA Care Needs Reviews – Our Board would like to thank our school staff for their planning and efforts to attain additional SNA support for the pupils of our school. SNA Care plans are now saved on Aladdin and will make the revision of plans as necessary for SEN pupils easier for future school years and staff. Special Education Needs Officers visited our school in December 2025, January 2026 and June 2026 to observe and examine the Care Needs present in our school. Our school has again appealed our SNA allocation and we await a decision outcome.

New Pupils We have welcomed many International pupils and pupils transferring from different schools to our school during the school year. They are all settling in well and have been supported by staff and pupils as they settle in to the school.

Staffing This year we had 9 Mainstream Class teachers, 1 ASD Class teacher, 3 SET teachers. Ms Delaney was our part time EAL (English as an Additional Language) Teacher. This year we had an allocation of 2.66 SNAs. The utilisation of the full Secretarial hours available to our school has proved beneficial. Aimee undertakes Admin work remotely. All in our school community are reminded that the best time to contact and visit our school Office is between 8.30am and 12.30pm when Mary is present. Phone calls + visits after 12.30 especially on match days and when we have visitors to our school can lead to our school personnel resources becoming stretched which is not good for Child Protection and the smooth running of our school. We thank Mary for her tireless work in our school office for the staff of our school and for the local area of Urlingford in general. Having such great assistance and support in our school office from Mary + Aimee has proved very beneficial to Principal Mr Lonergan over what has been an extraordinarily busy two school years.

School Self Evaluation This year our school completed a thorough School Self Evaluation process. Questionnaires and in person meetings were used to attain peoples feelings, views and opinions about how all is going on in our school. A copy of our 2026 School Self Evaluation Document is available on our school website www.urlingfordns.com

School DEIS Plan– Literacy -we have focused on creating greater opportunities to enjoy reading in our school. Book Club at break time was very popular. Khans Book Fair in May was well received by all in our school community. Class Novels bought in the Summer of 2025 proved very popular with 3rd to 6th Class pupils. Maths – A focus was put on implemented new recommended methodologies in line with the New Maths Curriculum. Attendance – Attendance Certs were given to pupils who had good termly and End of Year attendance. Check in calls were made by Class Teachers or school Office to any pupils who missed 4 consecutive school days.

Standardised testing took place from 1st to 6th class for English, spelling and maths. Standardised testing took place in October 2025 and May 2026.

Well Being - We promote children's **wellbeing** through academic, physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and social development by equipping them with knowledge and skills to deal with challenges that impact their wellbeing. Our school held a well being week in late May. All pupils enjoyed Yoga Sessions as part of Well Being Week. The Acts of Kindness Awards in the Month of May were a great success. A Guest Speaker spoke to staff re Staff Well Being at a Croke Park Hour in Mid May. The Guest Speaker highlighted the importance of positivity towards our job and having respect for everyone's role and duty in our school community. Greg highlighted again the positive influence which school staff can have on pupils lives.

Extra Curricular Activities – Extra Curricular school activities are voluntary, non-academic pursuits that take place outside of regular school tuition hours (before or after school or during school break times). They are designed to support holistic pupil development by helping pupils have a greater connection with our school, helping pupils with personal interests, build social skills, and develop talents and life skills which may not be traditionally taught or given during regular tuition hours. Extra Curricular opportunities contribute greatly to school life and positivity in our school. Our school is very proud of the level of extra curricular opportunities offered to the pupils of Urlingford Ns. Our schools Board of Management would like to thank and praise the school staff who provide Rainbows Instruction, Camogie Coaching, Gaelic Football Coaching, Hurling Coaching, attendance at after school GAA Cumann na mBunscoil matches and Meetings, preparation for and attendance at local Urlingford St Patricks Day Parade, preparing quiz teams for quizzes, Attend Quizes outside school hours, Book Club, Green Schools, attending Saibhriu Meetings, staff who facilitate and prepare pupils for the reception of the sacraments and Students Council Meetings.

Parents, Guardians and our Parent's Council A huge thank you to all parents, guardians and the wider community who contribute or support our fundraisers and charity events. Your support is invaluable and we are extremely grateful for the many activities that the parent's council subsidise in the school.

Building Works and Maintenance We thank School Caretaker and School Cleaner Anthony for keeping our school grounds safe, secure, well maintained and well presented. The new Nets behind goals on our school pitch has made our playground and staff carpark much safer places. The tarmacadam strip at school side of pitch has reduced the number of stones, pebbles and debris which appear on our basketball court. Our new school gates and fencing have greatly helped with minimising risks for all pupils especially flight risk pupils. Our newly tarred Bus Bay and new Road Markings on road in front of our school have greatly enhanced Road Safety. Our School completed Roof Repairs to Roof parallel with Road in March 2026. Our School undertook sewerage work in March which has proved very beneficial in reducing the number of blockages from Staff bathrooms. This Summer we hope to make the gables of our school safer and more aesthetically pleasing, install a 20 unit bicycle rack, construct a raised flower bed and raised vegetable patch, install seating area to increase Green school possibilities and purchase Gym Mats to increase PE opportunities for pupils.

New Initiatives This year we constructed a Students Council for the first time. Our Students Council End of Year Report is available to view on our school website. This year we had a Book Club. This year we were a pilot school for the Saibhriu Project which coaches teachers on how to cater for exceptionally able pupils. This year our school provided Rainbows instruction. Rainbows is a 9 week peer support initiative for primary school children experiencing grief from bereavement, parental

separation or divorce. We have had a full year of hot lunches, We also received funding from the Department of Education for the free book scheme, as a result, text books and copies were supplied at no cost to the parents. This year our school received Golf Coaching lessons with Aaron from Golf Ireland for the first time and Rugby Coaching from Noel Devlin. This year Management teachers and our Parents Association have worked to design and source a supplier for our new Urlingford NS School tracksuit. This year 3rd to 6th Class received Tinwhistle Lessons from Music Generations Paula Dowling from November 2025 to May 2026. We hope to benefit from Tinwhistle lessons again in the 26/27 school year. Next year our school is going to trial and explore the possibility of running a Morning Club to help families who need to drop off pupils earlier to school due to work etc. This will create greater demands on our school but would be a brilliant service for families. Morning Club will not be sustainable if we have insufficient demand to make Morning Club viable.

Quiz Culture – Our school has made great strides in embedding a quizzing culture in our school. Trial Sports Quiz, Trial Credit Union Quiz, Halloween Quiz, Christmas Quiz, Seachtain na Gaeilge Trath na gCeist, Easter Quiz, Summer Quiz and Geography/Biodiversity Quiz were really enjoyed by our Senior Pupils. Next year we hope to have an even better Whole school approach to quizzes. Our schools Sports Quiz Team came second in the Annual Cumann na mBunscoil Sports Quiz.

Policy Development Our staff have received training for the New Curriculum Framework and on Bí Cineálta, the new anti-bullying policy. We also received First Aid Training, Physical Restraint training and Epilepsy training from Ireland. We remain compliant with all mandatory policies and child protection and safeguarding guidelines and procedures.

Croke Park Hours Croke Park Hours are an essential part of school life – allowing staff to sit and plan together, devise policies and plans together. Our school used Croke Park Hours constructively again in 25/26 to enhance our Policy Revision/Construction and hold staff Meetings etc. Copies of recently revised School Policies are available on our school website.

Special Class -This is the second year of our special class and we have 6 children, ranging from junior infants to Senior Infants. It is wonderful to have a special class in the school and we know that many children in the local community will benefit from this special class. Summer Programme 2026 The summer programme will run again this year for 2 weeks in July. This programme is sanctioned by the department of Education and is tasked with building children's confidence and connections.

Sporting Success – Our Boys Football team won the Roinn B Schools Gaelic Football title with a comprehensive win over Rower Inistiogue Schools in December. Our Schools Hurling team have qualified for the Roinn C League and Tommy O'Brien Cup Finals in late June. This success has been brilliant for our school and follows on from our Girls Football +Camogie Roinn B success in 2025. Our boys teams narrowly missed out in three finals in 2025 so all involved deserve great praise for their perseverance and efforts.

Partnerships – Our school has worked hard to build up strong partnerships with other groups in our area. It was great to be able to welcome 6 Garda Vetted volunteer GAA Coaches from Emeralds GAA Club to our school for the benefit of our Juniors to 2nd Class pupils who experienced really enjoyable hurling coaching sessions. Graine/Urlingford/Johnstown First Responders visited our school to give First Responders training to our Senior Classes again this year.

Curriculum Investment – Our school invested in New Maths Curriculum Resources, Teacher laptops, a new laminator, a new photocopier, installed Shelving for Maths + SET resources, IPADS for our ASD Class, Class Novels for 3rd to 6th Class, PE equipment and tin whistles this year.

Our School Community The Board of Management would like to thank all the parents, guardians, teachers, SNAs, Ancillary Staff and the Parent's Council and the wider cohort of interested friends and benefactors. You continue to support us, to meet the needs of the children and ensure that they have access to a wonderful well-resourced learning environment, where children can feel secure, develop and make progress. We wish our outgoing 6th class boys and girls all the best as they begin their 2nd level education. Well done to every child enrolled in our school. You do us all proud with your eagerness, respect for one another, your good behaviour and for trying your best. The Board of Management wishes you all a very enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to your return on 1st of September, 2026.