

# First term meeting of the Primary School Council 2019/2020

## 12/11/2019 18h00-20h15

- Chair: Jérôme Bel (headmaster)
  - Parents: (PS/MS-HB/CR) Lisa Lambe and Nicolas Medot, (PS/MS-SR) Oussama Zitouni, (GS) Jeremy Gueguen, (CP) Stéphanie Wirth, (CE1-LG) Stéphanie Vitols, (CE1-SC) Catherine Charles, (CP/CE2-PB) Céline Delpech, (CP/CE2-BF) Pauline Bievre, (CE2) Séverine Reneaud, (CM1) Edel Michelon, (CM1-CM2) Christian Klepper (CM2) Grégoire Leforestier
- Teachers and assistants: Christine Reboul, Sylvaine Wright, Salma Khattab, Mauren Latour, Pierre Benech, Sophie Cronin, Laurence Guegan, Marie Woll, Erika Nolier, Valérie Molette, Béatrice Cayet-Fernandez, Louise Lopez-Bassols, Danielle Dolliou, Stéphanie Adamson and Hélène O'Meara
- Observers: Nicolas Bourgeois (proviseur), Christelle Cuq and Fiona McElree (administration)
- Excuses: Fournier Dulac (IEN), Sophie Ryan, Blandine Farrugia (teachers)
- Minutes: Stéphanie Wirth (parent) and Salma Khattab (teacher).

### I. SCHOOL and SCHOOL OPERATION

#### Composition and competence of the Primary School Council.

- Parents are full members of the educational community.

The school would like an efficient dialogue between school and parents, hence a reminder was sent about the classes without a parent representative. A number of parents have therefore been invited: they can take part in the discussions but do not have the right to vote.

- Parent representatives participate in the Primary School, Class and School Councils.

- Elected parent representatives on the Primary School Council or the Administrative Council of a secondary school are full voting members of those bodies.

The Primary School Council: votes on the school code of behaviour, adopts the school project, gives its opinion and makes suggestions on the running of the school.

N.B.: **Educational questions are not decided at the Primary School Council** (choice of texts, reading methods, learning progression, evaluation, pupil placement...)

Voting members: The Primary School Director, the teachers (x 20), one parent representative per class (x 10 for 2019-2020)

#### Pupil numbers and teaching structure at the start of the school year 2019.

| TEACHING STRUCTURE          | EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 15 class teachers           | 4 replacement teachers (French teachers, English teachers, assistants) – very important role |
| 7 language teachers         | 16 lunch and after-school supervisors  |
| 4 teaching assistants       | 15 after-school activity animators   |
| 2 librarians                | Members of the Parent Association (President Marlène Boutier)                                |
| 2 administrators            | 1 operations manager   |
| 1 primary school headmaster | Members of the Board of Management   |

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 principal | All school parents |
|-------------|--------------------|

|  |   |       |  |
|--|---|-------|--|
| <b><u>7 Language teachers (PS to CM2)</u></b><br>Aoife Dolan (English / Irish)<br>Frances Caffrey (English)<br>Deirdre Kelly (English)<br>Ceara Belton (English / Irish)<br>Beth Croucher (English / DNL)<br>Louise Lopez Bassols (English)<br>Caroline Tosi (FLSco) | PS/MS   | 25    | Christine Reboul / H el ene Bertin (+Danielle Dolliou)   |
|  | PS/MS   | 10/15 | Sophie Ryan (+ Yvon Lebris)                              |
|  | MS/GS   | 11/14 | St ephanie Pouleau / Sylvaine Wright (+H el ene O'Meara) |
|  | GS  | 25    | Salma Khattab (+St ephanie Adamson)                      |
|  | CP  | 22    | Mauren Latour  |
|  | CP/CE2  | 7/12  | Blandine Farrugia  |
|  | CP/CE2  | 8/13  | Pierre Benech  |
|  | CE1   | 21    | Emmanuelle Lievre / Laurence Guegan                      |
|  | CE1   | 22    | Sophie Cronin  |
|  | CE2   | 23    | Marie Woll   |
|  | CM1   | 23    | Erika Nolier   |
|  | CM1/CM2   | 10/12 | Valerie Molette  |
|  | CM2   | 22    | B eatrice Cayet Fernandez                                |
|  | <b><u>2 librarians</u></b><br>Fa za Bel; Caroline Motte |       |  |
| <b><u>2 administrators</u></b><br>Christelle Cuq<br>Fiona McElree  |   |       |  |

New teachers / teaching assistants: Christine Reboule (half-time in PS-MS), Laurence Guegan (replacing Emmanuelle Lievre in CE1), Erika Nolier (CM1) and Ceara Belton (Irish/English)

New supervisory staff (Lunch and Garderie): Ruth Diez-Daly, Justine Moynat

New primary school secretary: Christelle Cuq

295 pupils (12/11/19)

Of which 68 new pupils:

21 in PS, 12 in MS and 5 in GS

- infant classes: 100

38 in infant classes

- junior classes: 195

30 in junior classes

Percentage of French pupils? 39.6 %

Binationals? 27.8%

Nationals? 24.6%

Third country? 8%

- **The Code of Behaviour.**

The new code of behaviour for the school year was passed. It will remain valid until the first meeting of the Primary School 2020-2021. Voting: 0 against, 0 abstention, 25 in favour.

Amendments as follows: addition of text below and addition of the annex entitled '10 Golden Rules'

Leaving class – infant classes

The infant classes leave class as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: from 2.30 pm to 2.40 pm

Parents collect their children either at the external door (ground floor class near the gym), or at the classroom door (upstairs class) or in the little yard (access to the right at the end of the main yard)

Wednesday: from 12.25 pm to 12.35 pm

**ATTENTION** : access to the premises before 12.15 pm is not permitted to allow for Holly Park Girls' recreation.

9.2 Golden Rules

To encourage good behaviour in the pupils in (and outside) school, one golden rule is promoted each month (tolerance, respect, kindness...). You will find the 10 Golden Rules annexed.

***How do you ensure discipline in the classroom and how can we contribute to it as parents?***

The teachers can rely on: classroom rules + Code of Behaviour + 10 Golden Rules

There should be mutual confidence between parents, school and supervisors.

Don't contest or discuss a decision taken by a member of the teaching team in front of your children.

A discussion among adults can take place if necessary.

- **Health and Safety**

- **Fire drill:**

The first fire drill took place on 02/09/19 Evacuation in 2 min 30. Nothing to report.

- **PAI / No nut policy**

Six 'PAI' for food allergies + six 'PAI' for asthma. Staff (admin, teachers and supervisors) have been trained and informed of the procedures to follow.

No nuts policy maintained. (Please do not bring products containing nuts into the school.) The other food allergies do not necessitate banning other foods in school.

- **Medical examinations.**

There will be a medical visit during the year for MS and new pupils: sight and hearing tests. MS vaccinations are also planned during the year (3<sup>rd</sup> term).

***Independent school TUSLA application:***

***- Do all children receive it? Is it obligatory to complete it? How does filling it in or not affect the child, the parents and the school?***

All schools in Ireland are linked to TUSLA which is an organ of the Department of Education and Skills. TUSLA monitors child safety (0 to 18 years). Every pupil who has reached the age of 6 must be registered with TUSLA to:

- ensure that they are receiving an education (compulsory from the age of 6)
- follow their progress

It has to be completed. We have never had a family refuse.

*The toilets are not always in a state of cleanliness that's agreeable/hygienic for the children: how often are they cleaned? Would it be possible to have one or two urinals for the boys? Are the children made aware of leaving the toilets clean after use? Outside school hours (after-school care and activities) – does someone always accompany the children (PS/MS and GS)?*

The toilets are cleaned several times a day (from 10 am to 7.30 pm). They have been renovated and the filter in the boys' toilets has just been changed (October 2019). It would not be possible to install urinals but stickers will be stuck at the bottom of the toilet bowls (as an amusing way to encourage the boys to aim straight).

The children are made aware of the need to leave the place clean, to respect their environment...(golden rule)

In the infant classes the pupils are accompanied by an adult when they go to the toilet. There are toilets in the two PS/MS classrooms.

Supervisory staff will be reminded that they must accompany children in the infant classes to the toilet.

*Does LFI have a sex education programme? If so, what class(es) receive(s) it? If not, why not?*

LFI follows the programmes of the French Department of Education. Human reproduction is taught in CM2 by the French teachers. This aspect of the programme can also be taught in 6<sup>th</sup> class. Dangerous/addictive behaviours are dealt with from 6<sup>th</sup> class.

The idea of sexual education is dealt with very little in the primary school. At this age, respect for physical integrity is emphasised. CP/CE1 and CE2 follow the 'Stay Safe' programme which covers the idea of respect for one's own and others' bodies.

- **Works**

During the summer - September:

- Walls insulated (75% improvement in heat loss)
- Roof changed
- Some doors and windows changed
- Entrance hall renovated
- Furniture changed in the staff kitchen

During half-term:

- New tarmac in the main yard
- Gym floor renovated
- Internal paintwork (hall)
- New space around the entrance: plants and space for prams

Still to do:

- Reinforce security at the main gate

## II. Projects

### • Educational activities undertaken by classes / by LFI

#### Class projects:

Non-exhaustive lists: Halloween, first aid, Science Week, Maths Week, Kangourou et Koala des maths, Green School, les Incorruptibles, French Lycees of the World Week, Children's parliament, visits by authors/illustrators, French Telethon...

#### Parent Association (APE)

The APE is a valued partner of Lycée Français d'Irlande. All parents of primary and secondary school pupils are automatically members. Marlène Boutier is the new president.

The APE runs activities throughout the year to:

- Put families in touch with each other.
- Develop communication between families and the school.
- Allow LFI to plan additional educational activities.

The teachers request subsidies to complete their class projects. We would like to thank the APE for all the projects thus made possible.

First 'subsidy request' meeting: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November

#### Green School Project from CP to CM2:

This is an international project (Eco-écoles) but particularly evolved in Ireland. The themes of the project are:

- 1) Waste / recycling
- 2) Energy
- 3) Water
- 4) Travel/transport
- 5) **Biodiversity (to be completed this year)**
- 6) World citizens.

Importance of the Green School Committee (one meeting a month): 18 'green delegates' from CP to CM2 -> picking up rubbish in the yard + compost bin... Projects around energy, biodiversity, transport...

### • School outings etc

- 18-20/09: Visit by G De Pennart and L Audouin (authors/illustrators)
- 19/09: Outing to Blessington CM1-CM2
- 14/10: Helix Theatre CM2 (Maths Week)
- 18/10: Explorium CE1 x 2
- 18/10 and 21/10: outing to Glencullen Pine Forest -> MS/GS + GS
- 11-15/11: Science Week (ECOLE)
- 14/11: Mill Theatre CP
- 15/11 Explorium CP/CE2
- 18/11: Presentation by W5 (Belfast) in LFI CM-6<sup>th</sup> class
- 18/12: Mermaid Arts Centre -> MS/GS + GS
- French Lycees of the World Week (18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November)

Production of a frieze showing a pupil's progress: each pupil (from PS to Terminale) will draw their portrait, write their name and add four adjectives describing themselves on a sheet. The sheets will then be joined to create a frieze showing a pupil's progress.

Photos of the classes: echoing the theme of the 2019 French Telethon in which LFI will participate on 6<sup>th</sup> December, each class will produce a photo showing the pupils from the back lined up from the smallest to the tallest: could be a quirky or unusual photo. One is always smaller or taller than someone!

Open Day in Foxrock: the primary school Open Day will close this week on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 11 am to 1pm in Foxrock.

- **After-school activities and garderie**

**Supervisory staff and after-school activity animators:**

All staff are trained and informed of the safety regulations (PAI, fire drill, defibrillator...)

Each year new people are trained in first aid.

All staff are garda vetted.

Most of the staff have many years' experience and qualifications in the domain of education.

Some staff are undertaking personal study for careers in education.

The training plan is open to all staff (AEFE, local training...) Everyone can participate if they need to.

All staff received anti-bullying training (via Sticks and Stones) two years ago.

The supervisory staff are subject to the same regulations regarding disciplinary management as the teachers: anti-bullying procedure, incident reporting...

Ratio ->        infant classes: 1 adult for 10 pupils  
                  junior classes: 1 adult for 12 pupils

**Lunchtime:**

45 minutes for the infant classes (11h30 – 12h15) and for the junior classes (12h15 – 13h00)

A minimum of 25 minutes to eat then recreation (outside weather permitting)

Three adults in PS, two adults from MS to CE1, one adult from CE2 to CM2.

**Golden rules:**

- \* **The staff encourage and help the children to eat BUT NEVER FORCE THEM.**

- \* **Pupils are asked not to bring in products containing NUTS**

- \* **Communication between parents and lunch staff is possible via the administration or via journal.**

**Parents' and teachers' questions regarding school life**

***Is the school looking for someone to teach Mindfulness? (activity cancelled at the start of the year when the teacher left)***

This activity should start again in January 2020. The new teacher is currently being garda vetted. It will be taught in English.

***Will hockey be run as an activity again now that the yard had been resurfaced?***

The activity was stopped because it was becoming too dangerous for the pupils who had got good at it.

Despite the new tarmac, Emma Meir does not wish to offer this activity next year.

***For lunch there isn't long enough to eat and the children are not allowed to talk. Can they have enough time to finish lunch and to be allowed a positive social time?***

The pupils do have enough time to eat (12.15 pm to 12.45 pm) if they stay calm. They can talk during lunch time if the sound level stays acceptable. Quite often, the pupils finish eating at about 12.35-12.40 and go out to the yard. Those who haven't finished can remain in the classroom until 12.45 (CP-CE1). For CE2-CM1-CM2, they can join another class at 12.45 (CP-CE1) until 1 o'clock.

***Garderie and amount of time the children spend outside in the cold weather. Children are being collected at 5pm from outside and they are often already very cold when they are being picked up. Children have mentioned that they are not taken inside when they are cold but they are taken inside when the garderie adults get cold.***

The school makes a point of letting the children play outside when weather conditions permit. After a day of class, it is better that the children play outside. Nevertheless, if it rains the garderie takes place indoors, which leads to more excitement and tiredness...

In addition, twice a week 15 pupils can go to the library from 3 pm to 4pm (Tuesday and Thursday).

N.B: the supervisors constantly tell the children to dress properly...

And finally, there are 15 after-school activities offered...

### **Parents' and teachers' questions about school life**

***Forbidding card games in school. Can we talk about this subject and instead of prohibiting can we propose positive discipline?***

Numerous problems of theft/loss/unwanted swaps arose between the start of the school year and the month of October.

The subject was raised several times in assembly and in the classrooms explaining the problems that had arisen and the right attitude to have. Unfortunately numerous other incidents took place. I would like the discussion to take place between the class representatives and myself during the class delegates' meetings (once a month). This will give the pupils the responsibility of putting in place rules (and punishments!)

Some parents are afraid the problems persist. Other propose that the supervisors should run activities (quiet games, sports games...) to avoid the reintroduction of cards which are often a source of problems. The school will look at alternatives.

***There is too much English in the school and not enough French. It is after all primarily a French school. So many subjects are being taught through English as is recreation and break.***

The school follows the directives of the AEFÉ (*Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger* – Agency for the Teaching of French Abroad) to which we belong and conforms to the rules in force. The LFI has worked on a considered policy for language teaching in the primary school:

- International Section from CP to CM2 (DNL + teaching the English language)  
DNL (civics and art) in CP-CE1-CE2 (1h30min per week)
- Putting in place a support group for English and for French during the time of Irish classes (once a week) from CP to CM2
- Different ability groups for English language classes

\*DNL: *discipline non-linguistique* Non language subject

Teaching in English and of English is incremental:

| PS | MS     | GS    | CP    | CE1   | CE2   | CM1   | CM2   | 6ème  | 5ème-3ème |
|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| /  | 45 min | 3h    | 4h 30 | 4h 30 | 4h 30 | 5h 30 | 5h 30 | 7h 30 | 12h 30    |
| /  | 3%     | 11.5% | 17.3% | 17.3% | 17.3% | 21%   | 21%   |       |           |

***Has the school looked into providing garderie before class time which would at the same time facilitate the children's arrival and reduce traffic?***

***What options are offered and applied by Hollypark to deal with the same problems?***

Proposal to evaluate through the following procedure (each stage must come back positive to move on to the next stage):

1. Bring the question to the Board of Management (parent representatives, management, staff representatives...) for agreement (insurance, principle, cost...)
2. Sound out the supervisors (who is available and interested?)
3. Survey the primary school parents (who is interested?)
4. Enrolments...

Neither Hollypark school offers supervision before 8.40 am. The pupils go to class from 8.30. No supervision in the yard in the morning.

To reduce traffic, Hollypark Girls has banned its parents from the drop off area. They have been directed to parking places in the neighbourhood and the 'walking bus' assembly points (run by the parents). We have been asked to do the same thing; we have refused for now.

A request to create the position of 'reception host/hostess' was evoked. This would be difficult to envisage in the short term.

***How are the pupils divided up during break time (by class, some have the right to play in another yard with the possibility sometimes to play football – could the CP pupils have a day when they can play football during break time?)***

These are scheduled:

- Yard for 'calm games': once a week in the yard of Hollypark Girls
- Drop off zone: once a week (each level has its day, for example Tuesday for CP) during the lunch break -> football pitch

***Is it possible to know how many parents are now garda vetted? Does the school keep a register?***

***Suggestion: a reminder to parents about the garda vetting procedure would be a good idea.***

The school keeps an up-to-date register of garda vetted parents that can be consulted by the teachers (necessary when school outings need to be accompanied)

A reminder will shortly be sent by email to all parents.

These minutes are available on the school website and in hard copy in the entrance hall.