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Principal: Mrs Mary McNeice



30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers and Children of Derrylatinee St Francis,

It is with a great deal of sadness and with some joy that I have to inform you all that Mrs McNeice will be retiring from her position as principal of Derrylatinee St Francis before the beginning of the next school year in September 2021.

Mary had made it clear to me that it would be her intention to retire when the patter of tiny footsteps blessed her daughter in Australia. Following the arrival of Tomás I knew it would only be a matter of time before this would happen. In February Mary notified me that indeed she would be leaving after 36 years of teaching, 35 of which were at Derrylatinee St Francis. So it is with sadness that I must advise the school community that we will be saying goodbye too Mary this year but I am delighted that it is so she and her husband Paddy will be able to visit their grandson when the restrictions are relaxed.

I, on behalf of Board of Governors, would like at this point to acknowledge the time, dedication and hard work Mary has put into the education and pastoral care of our children during her time here at Derrylatinee. Please be assured Mary has made me a promise that she will not be a stranger and that we will still see her from time to time on more sociable occasions.

I want to assure everyone that while it will undoubtedly be difficult to fill Mary's shoes, the Board of Governors has already begun the process of appointment of a replacement principal, and the position will be advertised over the coming weeks on the CCMS website. It is anticipated the Board of Governors will know who the replacement is before the end of the current school year and I will advise you further once this process has been completed.

In the meantime, we will continue to support Mary and all the staff in all that they do especially during these unusual times in which we are living.

Yours sincerely,

Phelim Marrion  
(Chairperson)  
On behalf of the Board of Governors