



Sisters of Mercy Western Province

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Charity Registration Number: 20000325

30th April, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

I am writing in relation to the Trusteeship of Ballyhaunis Community School.

The Mercy Sisters have been involved with Ballyhaunis Community School since it was established. Over ten years ago, in 2007, the Mercy Sisters were involved in establishing CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools' Trust) to carry out the trustee role in its voluntary secondary schools. Some of these schools had 100 years in the Mercy tradition and still continue to have that tradition under the trusteeship of CEIST.

Now, more than ten years after the establishment of CEIST and finding that the reasons for its establishment are even more compelling, the Mercy Sisters have asked CEIST to carry out the Trustee function in its Community Schools also, under an Agency Agreement.

This Agency Agreement, drawn up by a legal firm and signed on behalf of both parties for a three- year period, will commit CEIST to carrying out the 'Active Trusteeship' of the Mercy Sisters/Diocese in the Community Schools where they are co-Trustee. CEIST will carry out all the Trustee functions as outlined below:

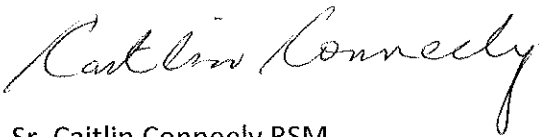
- Ensuring the maintenance of the characteristic spirit of the school
- Securing Trustee nominees for the Board of Management
- Involvement in the appointment of the Board of Management under legislation
- Securing Trustee nominees for Selection Boards
- Keeping in touch with school life through the Minutes being submitted to them by the Secretary of the BOM on a regular basis
- Fulfilling their obligations under legislation by ensuring that all relevant policies are in keeping with the characteristic spirit of the school
- Giving permission for major building projects of refurbishments envisaged in the school
- Working in partnership with the local VEC/ETB and other Catholic Trustees (if relevant)
- Working with ACCS and other relevant organisations

However, any legal issues will be signed off, as heretofore, by the Archbishop/Mercy Provincial Leader

This Agency Agreement will come into effect in September 2018. At that point, CEIST will have appointed a Coordinator to work with the Community Schools for which it has agency.

Over the first half of 2018, the Mercy Sisters and CEIST will liaise with the Boards of Management of Ballyhaunis Community School, the Principal, staff, parents and pupils and also with Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB and Department of Education and Science. It is hoped that the process will be as seamless and positive as possible. CEIST is committed to ensuring the continuance of the Mercy tradition in Community Schools where they are co-trustee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caitlin Conneely". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sr. Caitlin Conneely RSM