

**Message from Chairperson of Le Chéile Schools Trust on the retirement of Eilís Humphries**

**31/8/2021**

Today is a watershed moment in the history of Le Chéile Schools Trust. We welcome our new CEO, Marie-Therese Kilmartin and bid farewell to Eilís Humphries and wish her well in her new role within Catholic Education.

Eilís is by now synonymous with Le Chéile and together with her Executive team members and Board members has built up the Trust to one which now enjoys an enviable reputation within Catholic Education. The congregations which set up Le Chéile and those who have joined since put a huge level of trust in Eilís as their leader in the project and that trust has been returned a hundredfold.

As those of us who have worked with the Trust know Eilís has given of her considerable intelligence, talents and skills over and above the call of duty to Le Chéile for all the years she has served. We in Le Chéile have inherited a vibrant and progressive organisation and we owe it to Eilís as well as to the founding congregations to continue the work that she has begun and bring it to a new level into the future.

It is ironic that we have just moved into our newly built Education Centre and I have no doubt that this building will be a fitting physical memorial to Eilís' contribution to the Trust since its foundation. Eilís has been a source of inspiration to us all and one of her many positive traits is that she gathers around her good people who are prepared to give of themselves in support of the cause. She epitomises the Irish seanfhocal, "Ní neart go cur le Chéile."

We are of course sorry that we are losing Eilís in Le Chéile but know that her inspiration and her legacy will live on. We look forward to the challenge that this will pose for us and will work as hard under the leadership of Marie-Therese to ensure that the vision and purposes of Le Chéile live on.

Ciarán Flynn, Chairperson, Le Chéile Board of Directors.

Many of her friends on the Le Chéile and Síol Boards have put their thoughts in writing for Eilís and here is just a flavour of some of them:

you always executed your position with a kindness, humility, empathy and fairness that facilitated engagement by all members of the Board.

Your massive impact on the development of the Le Cheile Schools Trust stands as a monument to you and your work ethic.

So glad you are going to APTCS as having you in that role will be brilliant for the sector.

Where you get the energy from I don't know.

Here's to a renewed sense of hope and joyful enthusiasm for the next step of the journey!