**SKERRIES ETNS BOM MINUTES**

**Date**: 13th January 2022

**Time**: 8pm

**Place:** Zoom

**In attendance**: Richard, Conor, Ash, Sheelagh, Geoff, Ellie

**Apologies**: Suzie, Shay

**Agenda**:

Discussion of issues surrounding ventilation in school during Covid-19

* Conor presented information surrounding ventilation in school.
* He highlighted the difficulty of a day like last Friday (the 7th of January 2022) when temperatures outside were extremely low.
* There is a certain conflict between the need for adequate ventilation and the comfort of children and staff.
* Mario and Conor have carried out some tests in classrooms over the last number of days and in all cases the carbon dioxide monitors have given green readings where a number of windows and doors have been closed.
* There is no official advice from the Department.
* Conor also outlined the discussion surrounding HEPA filters. Following the research carried out in the school over the last number of days and weeks, it would appear these are not actually needed. We have good ventilation within the school.
* Conor also spoke with an engineer from On the Level who has a good working knowledge of our school. His advice was that HEPA filters were not necessary in our case and that fresh air was the best line of defence.
* The minor works grant given by the Department was €6000.
* Equipping our school with sufficient numbers of HEPA filters and covering the cost of electricity and filter changes would far exceed this amount of money.
* It was agreed that rather than buying HEPA filters, the school would provide a CO2 monitor in every classroom (and SET rooms if requested) so that teachers can keep an eye on levels and therefore use their best judgement and close windows if the temperature is uncomfortable.
* Conor reminded us that the recommended temperature should be 13-16 degrees and whilst it was agreed that this is a challenging temperature to reach during these times, we cannot allow the temperature of the classrooms to fall below a certain temperature whereby the children and staff are experiencing discomfort or are unable to work.
* Managing the comfort of children and staff is the Board’s priority and must be balanced against the risk of the spread of Covid. The Board agrees that windows must be partially closed especially on colder days so that children and staff are able to work in a more comfortable environment.