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Message from Chairperson and CEO

Each year, as we prepare our annual report, I find myself returning to the same simple but powerful truth — that progress rarely arrives in one great leap. It comes step by step, through steady dedication, quiet persistence, and the combined efforts of countless people who care deeply about making life better for children with disabilities and their families.

This year's theme, Step by Step, feels particularly fitting for St. Gabriel's Foundation. It captures not only the individual progress of the children we support, but also the steady, determined progress of the Foundation itself. Every step forward — whether it's a child mastering a new skill, a therapist innovating in their practice, or a volunteer lending their time or voice — contributes to something much larger: a collective movement toward inclusion, empowerment, and hope.

Our Mission, Our Purpose

At the heart of everything we do lies our unwavering mission- to provide essential therapy, education, and support services for children with disabilities and complex needs, and to stand alongside their families as partners on their journey.

Our work is grounded in compassion and guided by expertise. We recognise that each child's path is unique — that development looks different for everyone — and that even the smallest steps can represent enormous progress. Whether a child is taking their first physical steps after months of physiotherapy, using assistive technology to communicate for the first time, or gaining confidence through play, these moments remind us why our work matters so deeply.

St. Gabriel's has always been more than a service provider; we are a community. Our staff, volunteers, and families form a network of care that extends far beyond our walls. Together, we build an environment where children are not defined by their disabilities, but by their abilities, their dreams, and their potential.

A Year of Growth and Achievement

The past year has been one of growth, renewal, and resilience. Across every area of the Foundation, we have continued to strengthen our services and expand

our reach. Our interdisciplinary model is delivered by physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, social workers, and supported by therapy assistants and clerical staff. This model gives a chance for a child to grow, for a parent to find reassurance, and for hope to take shape in real, tangible ways. We also celebrated the continued success of our purpose-built Children's Respite House. This facility has become a cornerstone of our support network, offering children a safe and joyful space to relax, play, and socialise, while giving families essential respite and peace of mind. Seeing the difference this service makes in the lives of both children and parents has reaffirmed our belief that respite is not a luxury, but a vital component of family wellbeing.

Alongside our direct services, we have strengthened our community partnerships, ensuring that children across the Mid-West region — including those in rural and underserved areas — have access to the same high-quality care. Through outreach programmes, joint initiatives with schools and health services, and advocacy for more inclusive education, we continue to break down barriers and bring support closer to those who need it most.

Supporting Families Every Step of the Way

We know that behind every child's progress stands a family — often stretched, often tired, but always resilient. Our commitment to supporting families has developed further this year. This year, we expanded our range of family supports, offering workshops on navigating services, well-being sessions for parents, and peer groups where families can share experiences and encouragement. These spaces remind us that St. Gabriel's is more than a provider — it is a community of belonging.

We also strengthened our parent engagement framework, ensuring that families' voices continue to shape our decisions, priorities, and programmes. Listening to parents' experiences not only improves our services but deepens our understanding of what inclusion truly means.

Partnerships and Collaboration

None of this progress would be possible without the many partners who walk with us. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Health Service Executive (HSE), whose collaboration allows us to deliver vital therapies and programmes. We thank the Department of Education for its work in advancing inclusion within schools and early years settings, and our local authorities for their partnership in developing accessible community infrastructure.

To our funders — corporate sponsors, grant-making bodies, and individual donors — your generosity fuels every aspect of our work. The events, fundraisers, and campaigns you champion make a real and lasting difference. Whether it's a marathon, a coffee morning, or a simple act of giving, every contribution helps a child take their next step forward.

And to our volunteers — the unsung heroes of St. Gabriel's — thank you. Your willingness to share your time, your energy, and your compassion reminds us of the kindness that binds this community together.

Governance, Accountability, and Stewardship

As a registered charity, St. Gabriel's Foundation remains committed to the highest standards of governance and accountability. We continue to uphold the principles of the Charities Governance Code, ensuring transparency in our operations and integrity in all that we do.

Our Board of Directors has worked diligently to support strategic planning, risk management, and sustainability. We are acutely aware of the challenges facing the wider disability sector — from staff shortages to funding pressures — and we continue to advocate for long-term investment and fair recognition of the skilled professionals who deliver life-changing care.

To my fellow Board members, thank you for your wisdom, dedication, and steadfast commitment. It is a privilege to serve alongside people who bring such expertise and compassion to this work.

To our management and staff, I offer my deepest appreciation. Every day, you bring professionalism, creativity, and kindness to your roles. You carry the spirit of St. Gabriel's in every interaction — with children, with families, and with each other. You make hope visible.

Looking Ahead: Building the Future, Step by Step

As we look to the year ahead, we do so with renewed determination. Our priorities remain clear: to expand access, to innovate in service delivery, to strengthen our workforce, and to continue advocating for a truly inclusive Ireland.

We will build on our strong foundations — growing our capacity, investing in technology, and deepening partnerships across health, education, and community sectors. We will continue to ensure that families have a voice, that children have opportunities to thrive, and that no one is left behind.

The world around us continues to change, and with it, the needs of our community evolve. Yet our purpose remains constant. We move forward step by step, confident that every stride — no matter how small — brings us closer to the inclusive society we envision.

A Shared Journey of Hope

To everyone who is part of the St. Gabriel's family — children, parents, staff, volunteers, funders, and friends — thank you. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do.

When we speak about progress, it is not measured only in numbers or statistics. It lives in moments: a child's first independent step; a parent's tears of relief after a successful assessment; the laughter echoing through our respite house on a Friday evening. These are the steps that matter most.

Together, we have shown that change is possible when compassion meets commitment. And as we continue to take each step, side by side, we do so knowing that the path we walk is one of purpose, inclusion, and love.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of St. Gabriel's Foundation, I extend heartfelt thanks to all who make our work possible. Your support, your trust, and your partnership ensure that our children — and our community — can continue to move forward, step by step, toward a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow.

Mary O'Donovan Chairperson

Treasa McAuliffe

St. Gabriel's -The Journey So Far

Established in 1961, St. Gabriel's has grown into a trusted and respected not-for-profit organisation and registered charity, governed by a dedicated voluntary Board of Directors. Our headquarters in Dooradoyle, Limerick serves as the central hub for a wide range of services that support children with disabilities and their families across the Midwest.

In recent years, our footprint and impact have expanded significantly. In 2022, we were honoured to be appointed Lead Agency for a second Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT), known as South City. This marked a major milestone in our commitment to delivering high-quality, community-based services. The following year, we acquired the Old Primary School in Southill, which will be redeveloped into a permanent home for the South City Team—ensuring long-term stability and accessibility for families in the area.

Supporting Children Through Specialist Teams

Our Treehouse CDNT, under leadership from Lizette Marais, continues to provide a comprehensive range of therapeutic services and specialist programmes to children with disabilities throughout the Midwest. At the end of 2024 we were working with over 1200 children. Our teams strive to deliver what families need most and gain invaluable feedback from Family Network meetings.

The South City CDNT, under the leadership of Team Manager Aideen Shinners, began assembling a skilled and passionate team in early 2022. Experienced therapists and support staff were recruited to serve families in the city centre. Their enthusiasm and dedication were evident from the outset, as they worked diligently to meet the care needs of every child. By the end of 2024, the South City Team was supporting 560 children — a testament to their commitment and the growing demand for services.

Expanding Our Reach

In response to changing needs and service boundaries, St. Gabriel's extended its reach to include families living closer to the Limerick/Cork border. Recognising the challenges of long travel times for appointments, we established an outreach service in this region. This initiative has been warmly received by families, and we are proud to offer more accessible support to those who need it most.

St. Gabriel's School

Our special school caters to children aged 4 to 18 who have physical and multiple disabilities. Central to the school is a dedicated nursing team, ensuring that students receive the medical care and support they require in a safe and nurturing environment.

St. Gabriel's is home to a purpose-built Hydrotherapy

Community-Based Services

Pool, designed for therapeutic and rehabilitative use. While a nominal fee helps cover operational costs, the pool is also open to the wider public and community groups. Its construction was made possible through generous funding from the JP McManus Golf Pro Am, alongside donations and proceeds from years of community fundraising efforts.



We also operate a specialist Orthotics Clinic, which provides custom orthotic devices to clients. Public clinic access requires a referral from a consultant or healthcare professional, while private appointments can be arranged directly or through a GP referral. Both the Hydrotherapy Pool and Orthotics Clinic function as social enterprises—operating commercially to ensure financial sustainability, with all profits reinvested into enhancing our services.

These enterprises are vital not only to children with disabilities but also to the broader community, offering life-changing support and improving quality of life for many.

Regional Respite Services

In 2021, we opened a six-bedroom Regional Children's Respite House in Mungret. Purpose-built to provide overnight and short-term respite care, this facility supports families of children with significant disabilities and complex medical needs. It offers a safe, comfortable environment where children can receive expert care while their families take a much-needed break.

Collaborative Services

Also located on our Dooradoyle campus is the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC), which provides a specialised seating and assistive technology clinic. This partnership enhances our ability to deliver holistic, multidisciplinary care to our clients in the Mid-west and help facilitate families who previously would have had to travel to Dublin for these specialist services.

Regional Assessment of Need Team

The Regional AON Team at St. Gabriel's plays a vital role in supporting the eight Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across the region. Its primary focus is to reduce waiting times for the Assessment of Need process, ensuring timely access to services in line with the Disability Act 2005. Through coordinated efforts, the team enhances efficiency, promotes consistency, and strengthens collaboration between CDNTs, ultimately improving outcomes for children and families seeking support.

Our Mission

At the heart of everything we do is a simple but powerful mission:

To support people with disabilities to reach their full potential.

Our Values

Our values guide our daily work and shape every interaction with the individuals and families we serve. They reflect our commitment to

respect, inclusion, empowerment, and excellence

— and they are the foundation of our organisation's culture.

Building the Foundation 1961-2024



Limerick Handicapped Children's Committee was founded.



St. Gabriel's School recognised by the Dept of Education & Skills.



St. Gabriel's Treehouse Early Intervention and School Age Teams.



St. Gabriel's Orthotic Services



St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool



St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House



Funding received from the HSE towards the appointment of Children's Respite House nurse manager and specialist equipment.



Minister Anne Rabbitte T.D.,
Minister for Disability visited St.
Gabriel's Children's Respite House
in October. The Minister committed
funding to enable this much needed
service to open in 2021.



St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House is officially opened by Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte TD. The first overnight guests were welcomed in June 2021.



St. Gabriel's is appointed as Lead Agency for a Second Children's Disability Network Team.



St. Gabriel's Respite House begins fundraising for a Sensory Garden.



St. Gabriel's acquires Old Primary School Building in Southill and starts the process of developing it into the long-term base for the South City Team.



St. Gabriel's continues to secure funding for this capital project.

St. Gabriel's Foundation Children's Disability Network Teams

Treehouse Team, Dooradoyle, Limerick

Children's Disability Network Team Manager: Lizette Marais

The Treehouse Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) is based at Springfield Drive in Dooradoyle. Throughout 2024, the team engaged and delivered services to 1200 children and their families, providing vital therapeutic support. Clinical therapy services are currently available to children and young people from birth up to 18 years of age.

Each family supported by the CDNT receives an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). This personalised plan outlines the specific needs of the child and identifies the services required to meet those needs. Once the plan is agreed upon, therapists work in close partnership with the child and their family to help achieve the goals set out in the plan.

Recognising the growing demand for services in areas closer to the Limerick/Cork border, St. Gabriel's responded by establishing an outreach facility in Charleville. This additional location was developed specifically to support families living

in border regions who previously faced long and often exhausting journeys to attend appointments in Dooradoyle and has been welcomed warmly by families living in the area.

For example, a family travelling from Kilbeheny, Co. Limerick could spend up to 90 minutes each way—resulting in a round trip of four to five hours for a single appointment. In addition to the travel time, families often had to arrange childcare for siblings, adding further logistical and financial strain. Children arriving after such long journeys were frequently tired, which could impact the effectiveness of their therapy sessions.

St. Gabriel's remains deeply committed to listening to the needs of families and adapting our services accordingly and Family Network sessions are run quarterly to listen to ensure that the needs of family in the service are heard.







South City Team, Ashbourne Ave

Children's Disability Network Team Manager: Aideen Shinnors

Following the 2021 review by Mid-West Children's Disability Services under the National Programme for Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS), the catchment areas for Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) were aligned with the seven Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs). At the time, six CDNTs were already in operation across the region. To meet the needs of the newly defined areas, an additional CDNT was required.

St. Gabriel's Foundation successfully tendered to the HSE to become the Lead Agency for this new team. On 10th January 2022, our second clinical team—St. Gabriel's Foundation South City CDNT—was formally established to serve CHN 7, covering South Limerick City.

In 2023, we acquired the Old Primary Schoolhouse in Southill with the intention of redeveloping it into a permanent, state-of-the-art therapy centre for children and families in the area. We are pleased to report that in 2024, significant progress has been made on the redevelopment.

Throughout 2024, the South City CDNT grew and supported 560 children and their families reflecting both the increasing demand for services and the trust families place in our team.

Embedding Ourselves in the Community

Our team continues to work closely with local partners and community organisations, including Southill Hub and Tait House. We remain committed to delivering services within the community wherever possible, ensuring that families feel supported in familiar and accessible environments.

The South City team is known for its energy, creativity, and unwavering commitment to family-centred care. These qualities are deeply aligned with the ethos on which St. Gabriel's was founded and continue to shape how we deliver services today.

Navigating Challenges, Maximising Impact

Staffing levels and waiting lists remain a significant challenge for the South City Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). These pressures continue to impact our ability to deliver timely, comprehensive support to children, young people, and their families across South Limerick City.

Throughout 2024, we have maintained active engagement with the HSE and the National Disability Office, advocating for increased staffing and resources to address the growing demand for services. Our team has consistently highlighted the urgent need for sustainable solutions that will reduce waiting times and ensure equitable access to therapeutic interventions.

Despite these challenges, the South City CDNT remains committed to making the most of the resources currently available. We continue to deliver high-quality care through targeted group programmes, parent workshops, and the strategic use of community and universal resources. These initiatives allow us to reach more families, foster peer support, and provide meaningful interventions even in the face of limited capacity.

Our team's resilience, creativity, and dedication have been instrumental in maintaining service delivery during a demanding year. We remain hopeful that ongoing advocacy will result in the additional support needed to meet the needs of our community—and we are proud of the impact we continue to make every day.



Expanding and Evolving Our Services

Since its establishment, the South City CDNT has met the evolving needs of families through



Home-based initial contact appointments



Drop-in psychology clinics for parents



Sensory workshops with follow-up one-to-one consultations



Fussy eaters workshops with individual follow-up sessions



Cycling workshops to promote physical activity and confidence



A suite of parent training programmes, including: Early Bird, Hanen: More Than Words, Circle of Security, Sleep Tight, Toileting workshops

These initiatives have proven invaluable in supporting parents and caregivers, while also helping our team build strong, trusting relationships with families. By working collaboratively, we are better able to understand each child's unique needs and tailor our support accordingly.

Growing with Purpose

All clinicians within the South City CDNT are actively involved in service development—both within St. Gabriel's Foundation and across the wider CHO 3 region. Their contributions are helping to shape more responsive, inclusive, and effective services for children with disabilities.

As our caseload continues to grow, we remain focused on advocating for the additional clinical resources needed to expand our team and meet demand. The pace of growth has been significant, and we are committed to ensuring that every child and family receives timely, high-quality support.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the past year, we hope our work has made a meaningful difference in the lives of the children, young people, and families who access our services. Despite ongoing challenges, our priority remains clear: to deliver high-quality, person-centred support within the resources available to us. In 2025, we will continue to advocate for increased

staffing to meet growing demand and reduce waiting times. We are also excited to begin co-designing a Young Person's Forum—an initiative that will give young people in our service a platform to share their voices, shape their care experience, and influence future service development.

The journey of the South City CDNT has been one of rapid growth, deep community engagement, and lasting impact. As we look ahead, the opening of our permanent base in Southill marks a significant milestone. This dedicated space will allow us to expand our services, strengthen our team, and offer greater continuity of care to families across South Limerick.

We are proud of the contribution we continue to make—not only within our catchment area but across the wider region. With each passing year, our commitment to children and families grows stronger. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2025 and beyond, ensuring that every child we support has the opportunity to thrive.

Team Work: HAPPEE Project

The HAPPEE consortium consists of St Gabriel's Foundation, six DEIS primary schools (Our Lady Queen of Peace National School; Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School; Corpus Christi Primary School; St Mary's Primary School; King's Island Le Chéile National School; Gaelscoil Sheorise Clancy); the School of Allied Health in the University of Limerick and UL Engage in the University of Limerick.

Addressing the Therapy Gap: A Collaborative Response to Childhood Inequality

Across Ireland, over 73,000 children are currently waiting for essential developmental services—including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, and psychology.

Alarmingly, 44% of these children require speech and language support. These delays represent more than administrative backlog—they are a systemic challenge with long-term consequences.

Extensive research shows that lack of early intervention leads to poorer educational outcomes, increased risk of mental health issues, unemployment, and even involvement with the criminal justice system. For families and educators, these waitlists cause immense stress, especially for children already vulnerable due to disability, learning challenges, or socio-economic disadvantage.

From a developmental standpoint, missing critical windows for therapeutic support can permanently alter a child's health and educational trajectory. From a rights-based perspective, these delays undermine Ireland's commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 24, 26, and 28), the Participation Framework (DCEDIY, 2021), and the Progressing Disabilities National Policy (2021).

In practice, accessing therapy often requires significant advocacy or the financial means to pursue private care—options not available to many families, particularly in areas of high deprivation.

A Local Challenge, A Local Solution

In Limerick's regeneration areas, the impact of poverty and marginalisation is well documented. Families face complex challenges including housing instability,



Recognising this, a consortium of DEIS Level 1 primary schools in Limerick has partnered with St. Gabriel's Foundation, the University of Limerick's UL Engage and School of Allied Health, and Limerick City and County Council to pilot a new model of care: school-based clinical supports delivered by supervised Allied Health university students.

This initiative—called the Health Alliance for Practice-based Professional Education and Engagement (HAPPEE)— provides accessible, non-stigmatising therapeutic services directly within schools. Using a whole-school approach, the programme ensures wraparound supports, equitable access, and tailored interventions for children identified by Special Educational Needs (SEN) teams.

Supervision is provided by senior clinicians at St. Gabriel's and clinical tutors from UL's School of Allied Health, which trains professionals in disciplines such as Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech and Language Therapy.

HAPPEE in Action

Piloted in 2021 at Corpus Christi National School, HAPPEE has demonstrated strong potential. In late 2023, the programme expanded to two additional DEIS schools, reaching four more in 2024.

This model leverages the trusted relationships between schools, families, and community services—making schools a natural hub for early intervention. SEN teams gather data through educational assessments and the universal continuum of support, helping to identify children most in need of clinical input.

By embedding services in familiar settings, HAPPEE reduces barriers to access, supports families holistically, and strengthens community resilience.

Building the Evidence Base

To ensure the sustainability and scalability of HAPPEE, robust evaluation is essential. The consortium is committed to co-designing a meaningful data strategy with all stakeholders—schools, families, therapists, and researchers.

This includes:

- Identifying and collating existing data sources
- Developing tailored assessment tools
- Capturing outcomes that matter to children, families, and educators
- · Monitoring implementation and refining the model

The goal is to produce enough evidence that informs practice, supports policy development, and provides a replicable framework for other regions. The HSE has expressed informal interest in the pilot, but future investment will depend on clear, credible data.

Our Commitment

St. Gabriel's Foundation has been supporting children with disabilities since 1961. Through our two Children's Disability Network Teams and community-based services—including hydrotherapy, orthotics, and respite—we understand the importance of timely, accessible care.

HAPPEE reflects our continued commitment to innovation, equity, and partnership. Together with our collaborators, we are determined to improve health and education outcomes for children facing the dual challenges of disability and socio-economic disadvantage.

We believe every child deserves the right support, in the right place, at the right time. And we are proud to be part of a solution that brings that vision closer to reality.



St. Gabriel's Orthotics Services



Orthotics Services: Expanding Access, Enhancing Impact

Orthotics is a vital branch of healthcare focused on the design and provision of artificial devices—such as splints and braces—that support mobility, correct posture, and alleviate pain. At St. Gabriel's Foundation, our Orthotics Clinic plays a central role in supporting children and adults with a wide range of physical conditions, including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, stroke, diabetes, and arthritis.

Orthotic devices are often essential for enabling gait, preventing joint contractures, and improving spinal alignment. For many of our clients, these interventions are life-changing—helping them move more freely, participate more fully, and live with greater comfort and independence.

A Social Enterprise with a Mission

St. Gabriel's Orthotics Clinic operates as a social enterprise. This means our core mission is to deliver meaningful social and health impact, rather than profit. Any profit generated is reinvested directly into sustaining and expanding our services.

In 2024, we were proud to work on further developing our Private Orthotics Clinic through funding we received from Rethink Ireland. This investment is enabling us to refresh the clinic's facilities in Dooradoyle and launch a new website, allowing clients to book appointments directly. These enhancements will improve accessibility and streamline the client experience.

As demand for private services continues to grow, we are developing the private clinic as a sustainable revenue stream—ensuring the long-term viability of our Orthotics services while expanding our reach across the Mid-West.

In order to improve our service for our clients we implemented a client satisfaction survey via QR code and we have been very pleased with the feedback given and we continue to ensure that our client needs are met.

Growing Demand, Growing Impact

In 2024, the Orthotics Clinic delivered 3,697 appointments to children and adults across the region. Of these, 80% involved children with significant physical needs. Our orthotic treatments supported improvements in gait, posture, and spinal alignment, and helped prevent complications such as joint contractures and scoliosis.

This level of service is especially significant given that, prior to 2008, orthotic care was only available in Dublin. St. Gabriel's has worked tirelessly to bring these essential services closer to home—reducing travel burdens and improving access for families in the Mid-West.

To further support families, we've also established Outreach Clinics in partnership with Children's Disability Network Teams in Tipperary and Clare. These clinics ensure that children in more rural areas can receive expert care without long journeys or delays.













Clinical Excellence and Specialist Expertise

Our Orthotics Clinic is led by Consultant Orthotist Dr. Declan Sweeney (PhD, BSc Hons P&O, HCPC, MIAPO), supported by a skilled team of two orthotists, two administrators, and an orthotics technician. Together, they deliver a world-class service grounded in clinical excellence and compassion.

The team specialises in foot orthotics and lower limb biomechanics, treating both children and adults. In addition to complex medical cases referred through the HSE, we provide expert care for a wide range of conditions, including:

- Plantar Fasciitis
- Heel Spurs
- Sever's Disease
- Morton's Neuroma
- Metatarsalgia
- Shin Splints
- Runner's Knee
- Sports-related injuries
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Tendinopathy
- In-toeing / Out-toeing
- Ankle Sprains











Our on-site workshop allows us to offer a truly bespoke service. Orthotics can be adjusted during fittings, eliminating long wait times and ensuring that each device is tailored precisely to the client's needs. "Results from our patient satisfaction survey show that 90% of respondents noted the orthotics we provided have made their quality of life better."

Looking Ahead

communities we serve.

2024 was a year of growth and opportunity for our Orthotics department. With the support of Rethink Ireland and the continued trust of our clients, we are well-positioned to expand our services even further in 2025.

We remain committed to delivering expert care, reducing barriers to access, and improving outcomes for children and adults across the Mid-West. We look forward to reporting on the exciting developments ahead as we continue to bring world-class orthotic care to the

இ BOOK YOUR

APPOINTMENT ONLINE

www.stgabrielsorthotics.ie





St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool

6 061 302 733 − extension 2bydropool@stgabriels.ie

Hydrotherapy Services: Restoring, Expanding, and Innovating

St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool remains a unique and vital resource in the Mid-West—offering the only facility of its kind in the region. Purpose-built to support children and adults with physical disabilities and rehabilitation needs, the pool is fully accessible and maintained at a consistent temperature of 33°C, creating an ideal therapeutic environment.

More than a clinical space, the pool is also a place where families can come together, enjoy movement, and experience the benefits of water-based therapy in a safe and welcoming setting.

A Social Enterprise with Community Impact

The Hydrotherapy Pool operates as a social enterprise, meaning its core mission is to deliver health and social impact. Revenue generated through public sessions and group rentals covers essential operating costs such as heating and staffing. Any surplus is reinvested directly into the service—ensuring sustainability and continued access for those who need it most.

Service Manager Sandra Kelleher continues to bring renewed energy and focus to the pool's operations, working closely with staff to ensure that the service meets the demands of its users. Operating at near capacity, her leadership is helping us expand offerings for both families and the wider public.

Growing Demand, Expanding Reach

The pool continues to attract a wide range of users. Weekly sessions are held by private groups such as Water Babies and MS Ireland, while specialist organisations like Limerick Sports Partnership run tailored programmes that combine physical therapy with social connection. These group activities are not

only therapeutic—they foster community, inclusion, and wellbeing. Local schools are using the pool for their swimming lessons and every Thursday and Friday local children are learning to swim. It is fantastic to see the facility being used by the entire community.

To make the service more accessible, we offer a flexible pay-as-you-go membership model, allowing individuals and families to use the pool as needed without long-term commitments.

Technology-Driven Efficiency

The Glofox booking management system has significantly improved operational efficiency. Clients can now manage their bookings directly through the app, including cancellations. When a slot becomes available, it is automatically offered to someone on the waiting list—minimising lost revenue and ensuring optimal use of the facility.

The system has also streamlined payment processing and enhanced communication with clients, making the overall experience more user-friendly and less labour-intensive for staff.

Looking Ahead: Sustainability and Innovation

Running a hydrotherapy facility of this scale requires substantial resources. As part of our commitment to long-term sustainability, we continue to explore funding opportunities to offset operational costs and invest in service improvements.

Making the Hydrotherapy Pool more sustainable—both financially and environmentally—is a key priority for the St. Gabriel's team in 2025. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and remain dedicated to ensuring this world-class service remains accessible to all who need it.

St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House

A Year of Growth, Resilience, and Community

Our Greatest Achievement: A Garden of Joy 2024 marked a transformative year for St. Gabriel's Respite House. Our proudest accomplishment was the planning and installation of a vibrant new playground and the completion of a sensory garden—two spaces designed to bring joy, stimulation, and comfort to the children who stay with us.

From fundraising and planning to contracting and construction, this project was a true team effort. Staff from across the organisation pitched in, and special thanks go to Geraldine Butterfield, whose creativity and dedication turned a muddy patch into a colourful oasis just in time for our Open Day on 28th April. The garden now stands as a symbol of what collaboration and care can achieve.

Overcoming Challenges: Strengthening Our Team

The first half of the year brought staffing challenges. Two maternity leave posts remained unfilled, and our relief panel was stretched thin. This led to increased reliance on agency staff, which placed additional pressure on our permanent team—especially given the complex medical needs of the children in our care.

However, by April, the picture improved significantly. Staff returned from leave, new team members were recruited, and our relief panel was replenished. This allowed us to reduce agency dependence and restore a more consistent, knowledgeable care team—ensuring safer, more personalised support for every child.

In December, the HSE approved additional funding to help us reach full capacity. We began working toward our goal: every bed open, every night.

Impact: A Lifeline for Families

We continue to receive heartfelt feedback from families who rely on our respite services. The ability to plan around agreed dates, knowing their child is safe and supported, gives parents a sense of security they didn't have before Our flexibility and reliability offer more than just practical support—they ease the emotional burden of care. Families know that in times of emergency or unexpected need, St. Gabriel's is here for them.

Evolving Together: A Community Effort

This year, our connection with the wider St. Gabriel's organisation deepened. The development of the sensory garden revealed hidden talents among staff from other departments, and our Open Day was a celebration of teamwork—with ice cream, tea, and smiles all around.

We also welcomed back Darragh, one of our team members, after he completed his Paediatric Nurse training at Temple Street. His return brought renewed energy and expertise to our care team.

Looking Ahead: Building on Momentum

As we move into 2025, our focus is on consolidating our staff team and increasing activity to reach maximum service capacity. We aim to maintain and enhance our outdoor spaces, and to involve families more actively in service activities—from preparing for Santa's visit to participating in fundraising events.

We're committed to making the Respite House not just a place of care, but a place of community.



St. Gabriel's School

Message from Derek Cox - Principal St. Gabriel's School

At St. Gabriel's School, we are proud to provide a specialised education for students aged 4 to 18 years who have complex physical disabilities and, in nearly all cases, additional medical needs. Our primary students follow an adapted Primary Curriculum, while our secondary students engage with the Junior Cycle Schools Programme, working toward meaningful certification.

It is a privilege to lead a school where joy, learning, and care are woven into every day. St. Gabriel's is a place where children thrive, where staff go above and beyond, and where families are true partners in education.

A Bespoke Approach to Learning

Our dedicated team of teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) work closely with families to develop Individual Education Plans (IEPs) tailored to each child's unique needs. Daily communication between class teachers and families ensures that progress is shared, celebrated, and supported.

There is never a quiet day at St. Gabriel's. Our classrooms are vibrant, engaging spaces where children explore language and communication, numeracy, physical literacy, science, digital skills, life skills, and emotional regulation. Themed weeks—such as Science Week, Space Week, and Maths Week—bring excitement and creativity to the curriculum, with every student actively participating.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

While our outdoor time is limited by weather, we make every effort to bring learning into nature. With thanks to our fantastic Parents Council and Shannon-based company ELFC, we created some wonderful outdoor spaces adjacent to each classroom, allowing children to enjoy sensory-rich experiences in all seasons.

Hydrotherapy is a highlight of the school week. Every class enjoys swimming sessions in St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool, where the emphasis is on fun, movement, and physical wellbeing. The therapeutic power of water is evident in the joy and progress we see in our students.

We also continue our partnership with Liskennett Equine Therapy Centre, where students engage in horse riding sessions that build confidence, coordination, and connection.

Partnerships That Enrich

Our links with third-level institutions in Limerick continue to grow. We've welcomed trainee teachers and doctoral students in Child Psychology from Mary Immaculate College, and hosted music therapy students from the University of Limerick. These collaborations bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas into our classrooms, enriching the learning experience for everyone.

In July, we delivered our in-school Summer Provision Programme to every student—a vital support for families and a joyful part of our school calendar.







Celebrating Together

We ended the academic year with our cherished tradition: Picnic in the Park. Families and students gathered in the ability playground at Mungret Park to celebrate the year in a safe, inclusive setting.

We also welcomed the theatre to our school as part of the LimeTree's Bualadh Bos Festival. Anna Newell's enchanting show Under The Clouds created a magical experience for our students, and we look forward to more performances in Dooradoyle next year.

In December, our amazing Parents Council organised a craft fair and coffee morning and it was wonderful to see everyone coming together.

Looking Ahead

With the support of our families, friends, and the wider St. Gabriel's Foundation, our school continues to grow and evolve. We remain committed to providing a holistic, child-centred education that meets the needs of every student. We hope that the Department of Education recognise that we have outgrown our existing building and we hope to have news of funding a new school in 2025.

As we wait in hope, we are always seeking new ways to bring adventure, creativity, and learning into the lives of our children. And every day, they teach us something new in return.

School Board of Management

The Board of Management at St. Gabriel's School plays a vital role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of our specialised educational setting. Comprised of dedicated volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds, the Board ensures that the school operates in line with national standards while remaining responsive to the unique needs of our students. Their oversight supports the development of inclusive policies, the allocation of resources, and the advancement of our mission to provide high-quality, child-centred education for children with complex physical and medical needs. The Board's commitment to collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement is central to the success and sustainability of our school.

School Board of Management

Derek Cox - Principal

Mary O'Donovan - Chairperson

Treasa McAuliffe - Patron Representative

John Kiely - Teacher Representative

Laura Holland - Parent Representative

Michael Cregan - Parent Representative

Anne McMahon - Community Representative

Noel Earlie - Community Representative





Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Review & Progress

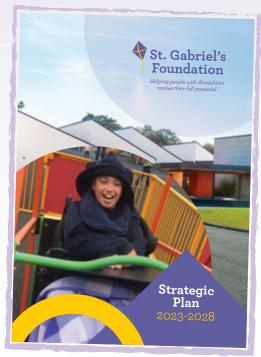
Strategic Plan 2023-2028: Two Years On

St. Gabriel's Foundation is now two years into the implementation of our five-year Strategic Plan, and we are proud to report meaningful progress across several key areas. Guided by strong leadership from our Board of Directors and driven by a passionate, dedicated staff, we continue to focus on delivering impactful services that improve the lives of the children and families we support.

The Strategic Plan was developed with a clear vision: to maximise the resources available to us, respond to emerging needs, and build a more inclusive, resilient organisation. In its first year, we've already seen action taken on a significant number of objectives—from service expansion and infrastructure development to staff recruitment and community engagement.

This momentum reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. With each milestone, we move closer to our long-term goals, and we remain excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. The next four years will be about deepening our impact, strengthening our partnerships, and ensuring that every child and family who comes through our doors feels supported, empowered, and valued.

We look forward to sharing more of these achievements as they unfold—and to continuing this journey with the families, staff, and supporters who make St. Gabriel's what it is.



"The Board recognises that the Strategic Plan is a very important document as it outlines the roadmap for future developments and improvements to the services that we provide for people with disabilities and their families living in the Mid-West."





Voices from the Team

Dr. Declan Sweeney

Clinicial Manager & Senior Orthotist

When I arrive at the office each morning, my first task is to prepare the clinic room for the day ahead. I make sure everything is ready — from ensuring the space is fully stocked to checking that all orthotics are prepared for the clients we'll be seeing.

I always take a few moments to touch base with our admin team and with Waqas, our Senior Orthotist, to discuss the day's priorities or any urgent referrals that need attention. It's a great opportunity to share updates and make sure we're all aligned on how best to support our clients.

Croften, our talented Orthotics Technician, works from the workshop on the lower level of the CRC. I usually pop down to see him at some point in the morning to answer any questions he has about the orthotics he's manufacturing and ensuring every orthotic meets our clients' needs.

Throughout the day, I typically see around 12 clients. These range from children with additional needs who require complex orthotics to help them walk, to athletes looking for support to reduce pain or enhance performance. Every client is unique, and it's incredibly rewarding to help make a difference in their comfort and mobility.

I also provide support to Waqas and Rachel whenever needed, offering assistance or advice with the clients they see. Collaboration is a big part of what makes our team so effective.

As the day winds down, I spend time liaising with our suppliers about ongoing orthotic orders, discussing design details for specific clients, and ensuring all clinic notes, orders, and queries are completed before heading home.

It's satisfying to end each day knowing we've helped people move and live more comfortably.







Legacy Planting Being Sustainable



Sustainability and Legacy: The Oak Tree Forest at Glenstal Abbey

In 2003, St. Gabriel's was honoured to partner with Coillte and the Benedictine monks of Glenstal Abbey in Murroe, Co. Limerick, to nurture a lasting symbol of sustainability and strength. Together, we planted a beautiful oak tree forest within a specially designated nature reserve—part of the ancient primeval woodland that surrounds the Abbey.

This forest was gifted to St. Gabriel's by the monks, and from this generous act grew our Oak Tree Gift Card fundraising campaign. Each card represented a planted sapling, allowing supporters to contribute to both our mission and the preservation of Ireland's natural heritage.

The oak tree, revered in ancient Irish mythology as the most sacred of all trees, is a powerful symbol of strength, courage, and endurance. These qualities mirror the resilience and determination of the children and families who engage with St. Gabriel's services every day.

Beyond its symbolism, the forest plays a vital ecological role. Trees are living organisms that help regulate our climate, support biodiversity, and maintain the balance of natural ecosystems. The Glenstal oak forest provides a rich habitat for wildlife and contributes to a more sustainable future—one rooted in care, community, and continuity.

This initiative reflects our commitment not only to supporting children with disabilities but also to fostering environmental stewardship. It is a legacy project that continues to grow, both in physical presence and in the values it represents.

There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it."

Voices from the Team

Michelle Kennedy

Clinical Nurse Manager Level 2

I'm Michelle Kennedy, CNM2 with the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) in St. Gabriel's. I lead and support our team of nurses and healthcare assistants who care for children with complex disabilities attending the school. My role combines leadership, clinical expertise, and coordination, making sure our nursing service is family-centred, safe, and closely integrated with the wider multidisciplinary team.

Day to day, I:

- Lead and mentor our nursing staff.
- Co-ordinate care for children with complex medical needs.
- Oversee assessments and care plans in partnership with families.
- Support transitions from early years to school or adult services.
- Work closely with therapists, teachers, and families to deliver joined-up care.
- Maintain high standards in governance, quality, and safety.
- Provide education and guidance to families and students on placement.
- Above all, I'm passionate about advocating for children and empowering families helping each child reach their full potential in school, at home, and in the community.



Hydropool Day in the Life

Operations Overview

Facility Standards and Preparation

Daily operations begin with thorough cleaning and disinfection of the changing rooms and pool area to ensure the highest hygiene standards. Lifeguards conduct water quality testing and safety checks before pool activities commence, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all users.

Inclusive Programming and Community Engagement

The Hydropool serves a wide spectrum of users, including school groups, disability support organizations, and the general public. Morning sessions often cater to ASD classes, while afternoons are dedicated to groups such as Parkinson's support and Enable Ireland. Public hydrotherapy and parent/child sessions are available later in the day and are managed through the Glofox booking system.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Lifeguards are present on the pool deck during all high-risk sessions to ensure user safety. From midafternoon, staff transition into instructional roles. delivering swimming lessons to children of all ability levels. Adult swim lessons and one-to-one coaching are also available, tailored to individual needs.

Evening aqua classes are designed to support clients with conditions such as arthritis, offering guided water-based exercises that promote mobility and wellness. Staff provide personalized support to help participants achieve their health and fitness goals.

Closing and Readiness for Next Day

At the end of each day, the pool area is secured, tidied, and prepared for the next morning's cleaning and setup. Weekday operations conclude at 8:00 PM, with weekend hours adjusted to close at 6:00 PM.

The Hydropool team's dedication ensures a safe, supportive, and professionally managed aquatic environment that meets the needs of a broad and diverse community.



Voices from the Team

Aideen Shinners

Children's Disability Network Team Manager, St. Gabriel's South City

As the Children's
Disability Network
Team Manager for St.
Gabriel's South City
team, I am privileged
to lead a dynamic,
multidisciplinary group of

approximately 18 staff members, including clinical, clerical, and support personnel. Our team is committed to delivering high-quality, family-centred services to children and young people with complex needs across our region.

My role encompasses both clinical and operational oversight. No two days are the same—each is filled with a blend of team meetings, referral discussions, interagency collaboration, and strategic planning. I liaise regularly with colleagues across the HSE, regional CDNT managers, and partner organisations such as Tusla, CAMHS, Enable Ireland, and the Brothers of Charity. I also represent St. Gabriel's on national working groups, including the CDNT IMS IT system steering group, and engage with umbrella bodies like the Disability Federation of Ireland to advocate for resources and systemic improvements.

A core focus of my work is supporting families. We host quarterly Family Forums, providing a space for parents and carers to connect, share insights, and contribute to service development. We are also launching a Young Person's Advisory Group to ensure the voices of children and adolescents are heard and valued in shaping our services.

Operationally, I oversee line management, staff supervision, service continuity, and monthly reporting of national metrics. With a historically small team, we've had to be innovative in our approach. Thanks to the dedication of St. Gabriel's leadership and advocacy efforts, we've recently secured additional clinical posts—nearly doubling our team size.

Our team has developed and delivered a range of initiatives tailored to the needs of our service users:

- Get Going, Get Rowing: A collaborative programme with Rowing Ireland promoting physical activity and inclusion.
- Hydro Heroes: Redesigned hydrotherapy groups focusing on daily living skills, social engagement, and physical wellbeing.
- Parent Workshops: Covering topics such as toileting, sensory needs, communication, and play.
- Collaborative for Active Solutions: A national behavioural support framework adopted by our team to enhance family engagement and problemsolving.

We strongly advocate for home-based initial appointments, which foster trust and allow for a more holistic understanding of each child's environment. Every family receives an Individual Family Support Plan, co-developed with clinicians and centred on the child's voice, strengths, and goals. This is a key area of focus for us, and we are proud of the progress made in embedding child-led planning into our practice.

To maintain engagement with families on our waiting list, we issue quarterly newsletters with service updates and universal strategies. These communications help manage expectations and provide interim support. We are also run a children's Christmas party—a joyful event that brings our community together and celebrates the resilience of the children and families we serve.

In summary, my role is a balance of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration. I am immensely proud of the dedication and creativity of the South City CDNT, and I look forward to building on our progress in the year ahead.

Rowing for a Cause: Kate Healy's World Record Powers Life-Changing Equipment

In one of the most inspiring fundraising efforts of the year, St. Gabriel's therapist and lifelong rower Kate Healy took on an extraordinary personal challenge to support children with complex physical needs. On Saturday, November 30th, in the heart of Limerick's Crescent Shopping Centre, Kate rowed an astonishing 256,480 metres over 24 hours—breaking Irish, European, and World Records in the process.

Kate became the first Irish female rower in the 20–29 age category to complete a continuous 24-hour indoor row. But this wasn't just about records—it was about impact. Her goal was to raise funds for an Innowalk, a dynamic stander that enables children who use wheelchairs to experience upright movement, promoting physical activity, independence, and joy.

The Innowalk had previously been trialled at St. Gabriel's with overwhelmingly positive feedback from children and families alike. Benefits included improved circulation, digestion, muscle strength, and even better sleep and reduced pain. However, the cost of the equipment was beyond the organisation's budget.

Motivated by the children she works with every day, Kate decided to take action. "Once I saw the difference the Innowalk made, I knew we had to find a way to bring it to St. Gabriel's permanently," she said. "Rowing for 24 hours was the hardest thing I've ever done—but knowing it would help our children made every stroke worth it."

Treasa McAuliffe, CEO of St. Gabriel's, praised Kate's determination:

"Kate's achievement is nothing short of phenomenal. Her spirit, strength, and commitment to our children left us all in awe. We are incredibly proud to have her on our team."

Kate's record-breaking row not only raised vital funds but also raised awareness of the importance of inclusive, innovative therapies. Her story is a shining example of how passion and perseverance can transform lives.



























The Power of Fundraising at St. Gabriel's: Transforming Lives in Limerick

At St. Gabriel's Foundation, fundraising is more than a financial necessity—it is a lifeline that empowers children with complex disabilities to live fuller, more independent lives. Based in Limerick, our organisation provides essential clinical therapies, early intervention services, and specialist supports to hundreds of children and their families across the Mid-West. Every euro raised helps us bridge the gap between what is needed and what is possible.

Why Fundraising Matters

Public funding, while vital, often falls short of covering the full spectrum of services and equipment required to meet the diverse needs of our children. Fundraising enables us to:

- Introduce innovative therapies and technologies like the Innowalk, which allows non-mobile children to experience upright movement and physical activity.
- Expand access to multidisciplinary care teams—physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, and more—who work together to support each child's development.
- Upgrade and maintain our facilities, ensuring they are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for children of all abilities.
- Provide family support services, respite care, and educational workshops that empower parents and caregivers.

Real Impact, Real Stories

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we've seen remarkable transformations. Children who once struggled to communicate are now using assistive technology to express themselves. Families who felt isolated have found community and guidance. And through extraordinary efforts—like Kate Healy's 24-hour world-record rowing challenge—we've been able to purchase life-changing equipment that would otherwise be out of reach.

A Community Effort

Fundraising at St. Gabriel's is powered by people: individuals, schools, businesses, and community groups who believe in inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for all. Whether it's a bake sale, a marathon, a corporate partnership, or a legacy gift, every act of giving helps us build a more compassionate and equitable future.

Join Us

We invite you to be part of this journey. With your support, we can continue to break down barriers, open new doors, and ensure that every child who comes through our doors has the

chance to thrive. Together, we are changing lives—one child, one family, one gift at a time.

If you have a fundraising idea or would like to get involved, please contact the fundraising department on



Highlights & Memories from 2024



Delighted to get shortlisted for the PTSB Community Fund. Great to have the Bluebellls on board helping to get the much needed votes!

We were so grateful to Resilience Healthcare who threw a garden party for all our families in April 2024. It was a funfilled day enjoyed by all.

Huge thanks to Proveca Medical for donating a Boscarol Mini suction machine to the Children's Nursing Unit here at St. Gabriel's School. Pictured is Aislinn Horgan, Proveca presenting the lifesaving piece of equipment to Michelle Kennedy, CNMII, Head of Nursing. Proveca is a global pharmaceutical company which specialises in the development and licensing of medicines to address the unmet medical needs in children.



Huge thanks to Scoil Pól Kilfinane who took on a swimming fundraiser for St Gabriel's and managed to raise €650! Treasa McAuliffe, CEO St, Gabriel's and past pupil of the school was delighted to visit her alma mater and meet the students who took on the challenge for St. Gabriel's. Ms McCarthy's Transition Year class did the fundraiser as part of a Water and Sun Safety awareness campaign. Well done everyone!







What a night in Killoscully! Thank you so much to The Gleann Wren Group for organising a rambling house and raising an amazing €1000 for St. Gabriel's. Young and old took to the stage and played with pure pride to raise the roof. The atmosphere was just brilliant! Aoife Kennedy from St Gabriel's was delighted to accept the donation last night. Thank you so much to all involved and to all who attended on the night. Brilliant support from brilliant people.

Kindness in Kildimo. A trio from Kildimo, Co. Limerick raised €150 for St. Gabriel's when they took on an entrepreneurial role and set up a Secret Summer shop full of homemade goodies. Sisters Emma and Kate Chawke and their best pal, Anne Greene treated the residents of the Limerick village to lots of tasty treats and drinks. Well done girls. Your kindness is beautiful. Thank you guys!



Getting it done! Thank you so much to Cullen and all the co-op students and graduate programme peeps from Cook Medical who answered the green - fingered call to get the school garden and classrooms looking beautiful for the students return to back to school. There was weeding, potting, scrubbing, painting. A lot of hard work and a brilliant result. Thanks for making the time and effort to make a difference guys.



So proud, happy and delighted for our past pupils Mikey (pictured), Aisling and Sarah who graduated from Mary Immaculate College. We are so proud of all they have achieved and wish them well as they go on to their next chapter.

Highlights & Memories from 2024



Delighted to share pictures of the pergola that was completed over the summer at St. Gabriel's School. Derek and the whole school would like to give a great BIG THANK YOU to Mark Griffin Carpentery and his team for a fabulous job. Huge thanks to Ed Colleran and his amazing team at Engine Lease Finance Corporation for their donation and clean up! To the anonymous donor who got the project over the line - Last but not least a big thank you to the parents, staff and their families and friends who helped fundraise throughout the year to make this work possible. Here's to fresh air and outdoor learning whatever the weather!

TYTYs! Thank you Transition Years. The entire set of TY classes took part in the Cook Mini Marathon for St. Gabriel's. The group raised over €15,000 which is a phenomenal amount to raise. Huge thanks to their chaplain Mr Cowhey for organising it all and their teacher Mr Trehy for taking to his bike to secure the route and to make it safe for all involved. Back at base, all the teachers came out to support the pupils and the principal Mr Mullins tried his best to take the title. There was such a fantastic atmosphere of pure team work and encouragement - it was lovely to see. It was also a distraction for the TY's who were getting their Junior Cycle results after the race. Thanks to the school for putting in such a huge effort to do this fundraiser every year. It makes such a difference to the children who attend St. Gabriel's. It's great to have a connection with the community and we are so grateful for your support.

St. Gabriel's was thrilled to have the amazing do-ers from DELL on site to transform some spaces that needed a little TLC. DELL have been a huge support to St. Gabriel's over the years and always show up and deliver with smiles and good cheer. Sarah and the gang got stuck in and the areas they targeted looked wonderful after their finishing touches. Thanks DELL for giving back to St. Gabriel's!



Delighted to have run 2 very successful fundraising lunches this year. Both events are so well supported by local businesses and every year Keanes Jewellers sponsor a table prize. We are so grateful to all the ladies who attend every year. The lunches would not work without you! Pictured here are the amazing committee Agnes Boucher Hayes, Rita Geary and Lucia Randles with Aidan Liddy from Keanes.





Absolutely delighted to have won the award for Innovation in Primary Healthcare at the Irish Healthcare Awards for our involvement in the HAPPEE project - a community collaboration to deliver inclass therapies to children in a number of primary schools in Limerick. The project has been a huge success and has transformed classrooms all over the city. We look forward to continue helping what we started. Well done to all the clinicians and students who went above and beyond to deliver for these amazing children. We are so proud of what we have achieved together.





A truly 5 star service from the team from Northern Trust who visited our Children's Respite house and tidied up and did the jobs that are always so far down the list like weeding and scrubbing and leaf-blowing! Huge thanks to Myles and Edwina for rallying the troops. Even though there was a lot of work done there was lots of fun too. So lovely to see the same faces coming back time and time again to give their time and support.



All our golfers had a fantastic day out raising much needed funds for St. Gabriel's at our annual golf classic. Thanks to all our teams and our sponsors for making the day happen. Lyons Motor Group gave everyone a lovely good bag and the Ishka water went down well as the sun got hotter. The committee - Terry, Claire, Cliodhna, Bernard and Pat- were delighted with how it went and worked so hard to make sure the day went so well. Winners on the day were Team Dawn Quinn who were absolutely thrilled to raise the coveted Punchbowl Trophy. Well done to everyone who participated and who helped to make the day a great success.

Voices from the Team

Elaine O'Riordan

Clinical Nurse Manager at Children's Respite House

My role is the Person in Charge for the beautiful Respite House in Mungret. I started my job here in May 2022, at which time we were running a service over 10 days in 14, our 15th child was coming in for his first visit and we had 18 staff employed. Today we have 25 staff, 39 children actively coming to respite, we have our 6 beds occupied 7 nights a week. We have grown in many ways in those 3 years. My role is to ensure the smooth, consistent and safe running of the Respite house for all who enter it's doors, ensuring we have a full staff team to maintain the highest quality of care and ensure we provide a safe service for our children and staff. Every hour, day and week is different depending on the needs of the service, staff or family at that time. Typical activities include managing referrals, gathering information, organising new children starting the service, ongoing communications with staff, family members or health professionals in relation to a child's changing needs.

Overseeing staffing and the calendar of bed nights offered to the families, managing changes, swaps, last minute cancellations and urgent requests - for both the children and the staff. Arranging, attending and documenting interviews, committee meetings, training and multidisciplinary team meetings. Showing people around this purpose-built service - peer service providers, new families, children from local classrooms, fundraising groups, local 3rd level courses and other visitors to the centre.

Most days involve Christine and I taking out our trusty toolbox and fixing something, sometimes we admit defeat and bring in the big-guns (Sandra Kelleher). Not a day goes by without someone coming to me saying "will you come here a minute, I have to show you something...." out with the screwdriver and a you tube video. Each staff has a regular 1:1 supervision meeting with me, during which the focus is their experience of their work and job. I work with a Family Forum group who meet every 3 months and exchange information, ideas and feedback.

HIQA come and inspect our service approximately every 18 months or so and we spend a lot of time ensuring that our service will be judged well during those visits. Those are important days for the whole of the St. Gabriel's respite community. Those visits are in place to assess the capacity and capability of

the service and ensure the service provided is of a high quality and safe for all. Those audits provide information and reassurance to the families who trust us to care for their children. We have monthly staff meetings with a good supply of coffee where we address the business of the month. Events big and small are reviewed and problems arising are solved within the team.

Most weeks, I'll hop in the car and call into the centre to meet Treasa for my own supervision, an errand to the school or nursing dept, a check in with one of the Treehouse team, get a question answered, something signed, ask for money for something, apologise to Susan or Aideen (in payroll) for some confusion I've created, check in with Kate for the multitude of jobs she does for me - the list is endless. There is regularly a St. Gabriel's event featuring cake, nibbles, coffee and a catch up with my colleagues where we inevitably say how busy life is and how we must catch up properly. There is always a warm exchange of news and greetings with the St. Gabriel's staff I encounter and over the 3 years I've worked in St. Gabriel's, there has never been an unsolvable problem, with the support of the team anything is possible.

It is an honour to do this job every day and I know how lucky I am to be working in St. Gabriel's during this period of growth and



Board of Directors



Mary O'Donovan

Having graduated with a B.E (Elec) from UCC and an M.B.A from UCG, Mary O'Donovan has held a number of senior leadership positions including Customer Service Director, Chief Information Officer, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager. More recently she has worked as a consultant providing services to the Telephony, Utility and Health Sector. She is a Chartered Director and is currently a nonexecutive Director and member of the Audit and Risk Committees at An Post, T.I.I and the Residential Tenancy Board. She is the current Chair of St. Gabriel's School Board of Management.



Alan Carey

Alan is a Managing Partner with Bridgewater, Consultancy Group, Limerick. An experienced strategist, he fulfils the roles of Senior Business Consultant, Business Architect & Business/Corporate Analyst. Alan has over 20 years' experience in delivering business strategies, transformation and organisational change programmes.



Dr Siobhan Gallagher

Consultant Paediatrician at University Hospital Limerick and the HSE Mid-West Children's Services. Dr Gallagher's main clinical interests are the management of children with significant neurological impairment, complex medical needs and paediatric palliative care. Outside of work she is an enthusiastic runner and is keen on art history.



Laura Keane

Laura is a registered Occupational Therapist and Managing Director of Resilience Care. She has overall responsibility for the strategic direction and management of Resilience Care. She has 30 years' experience in the health and social care sector as a clinician and then progressing into executive management, working across the voluntary and private sectors. Laura is also a member of the Professional Providers and Caregivers Board of IPWSO (International Prader Willi Syndrome Organisation).



Pat Murphy Treasurer

Pat Murphy is a certified accountant who retired from a senior financial role with Bon Secours Health System, bringing extensive experience in finance, audit and governance. In his voluntary board role with St Gabriel's Foundation, he offers strategic oversight and financial stewardship to support the charity's mission of delivering therapy, education and respite care for children with complex disabilities. Pat's combination of professional rigour and communityoriented service strengthens the Foundation's accountability and impact in the Mid-West region.



Stephen Keogh

Stephen Keogh is a solicitor and is the Managing Partner of the leading regional Irish Law Firm, Keating Connolly Sellors Solicitors. As well as providing leadership for the firm, Stephen maintains key responsibility for the commercial advisory to clients. Stephen is the current President of the Shannon Chamber of Commerce and he is a member of the Economic Policy Committee of Limerick Chamber of Commerce.



David O'Malley

B.Eng Civil (Hons), MlEI.
David has been practicing as a
Consulting Engineer since 2007.
David has experience in Structural
Engineering, Civil Engineering,
Planning Autority/Local Authority,
Fire Certification, Noise & Vibration
Assessment, Asset Survey/Taking In
Charge, Road Safety Audits, Project
Management.



Olive Noonan

Company Secretary

Olive Noonan is a former Bank of Ireland Business Manager based in Limerick, bringing extensive experience in financial services, relationship management, and community engagement. Over her career, she has supported local enterprises and initiatives across the Mid-West, contributing to business growth and regional development. Olive now serves on the Board of St. Gabriel's Foundation, where she applies her financial and strategic expertise to support the organisation's mission of providing vital therapy, education, and respite services for children with complex physical disabilities. Her blend of professional insight and community commitment reflects a deep dedication to good governance and social impact.



Evelyn Pepperell

Evelyn Pepperell brings a strong commitment to charitable governance and community service to her role on the Board of St Gabriel's Foundation. With a background in social media and marketing, she contributes valuable oversight, strategic input and local insight to support the Foundation's mission of empowering children with complex physical disabilities.



Myles Shanahan

Myles Shanahan is a committed advocate for children's welfare. Myles has been actively involved in both governance and fundraising for the Foundation. Professionally, Myles works with Northern Trust, where he applies his financial expertise to support strategic and operational goals. His volunteer leadership reflects a deep personal commitment to improving the quality of life for children and families served by St. Gabriel's across the Mid-West region.



Eugene Hogan

Eugene Hogan is a Managing
Director in Ireland with Global CEO
Advisory firm Teneo. He joined
Teneo in 2020 when it acquired
Bridge PR, a boutique strategic
communications and digital agency
founded by Eugene in the Mid-West
in 2011. Eugene, in his time with
Bridge PR and Teneo, manages
a portfolio of clients operating
nationally and internationally in
sectors such as technology, transport,
environment, local government, real
estate, healthcare, tourism, education,
sports, NGO and financial.



Tiernan O'Neill

Tiernan O'Neill is the Principal of Corpus Christi National School in Moyross, where he has built a reputation for inclusive leadership and engagement with communitycentred education. He brings this same community-first ethos to his voluntary role on the Board of St Gabriel's Foundation, contributing to its strategic oversight and advocacy for children with complex needs. Tiernan's combination of educational insight and local commitment supports the Foundation's mission to deliver exceptional care, therapy and educational services across the Mid-West.

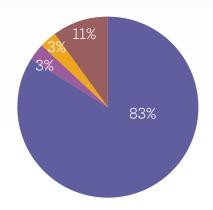
Financial Overview

St. Gabriel's is funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE) through Section 39 Grant funding. Fundraising, donations and grant submissions helped to offset operational costs and support the cost of new projects.

St. Gabriel's annual Service Level Agreement with the HSE was signed in November 2024.

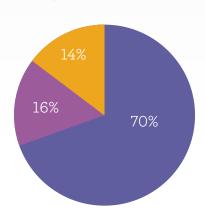
St. Gabriel's Hydrotherapy Pool and Orthotics Department are financially managed using a social enterprise model and funds generated are invested in maintaining and expanding services.

Income 2024



Income 2024	€	%
Statutory Funding	€6,851,392	83%
Fundraising	€212,158	3%
Grants & Philanthropy	€270,316	3%
Commercial Activity	€885,141	11%
Other	€6,893	0%
Total	€8,225,900	100%

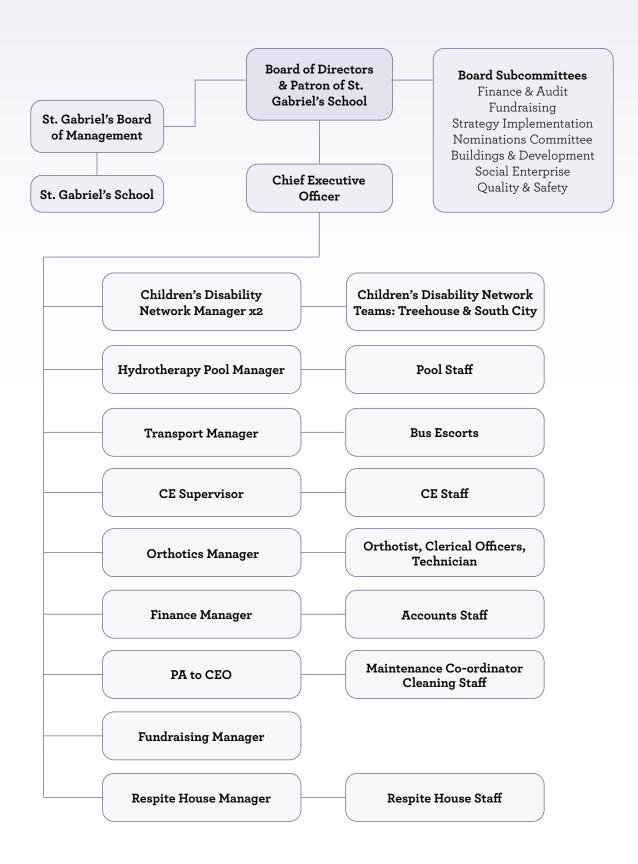
Expenditure 2024



Expenditure 2024	€	%
Employment	€5,489,683	70%
Operational	€1,245,701	16%
Commercial Activities	€1,056,668	14%
Generating Funds	€32,994	0%
Total	€7,825,046	100%

To view St. Gabriel's Audited Accounts for 2024 please visit our website - www.stgabriels.ie

Organisation Chart 2024



Governance and Management

St. Gabriel's Foundation has evolved significantly since its establishment in 1961, when it was originally known as the Limerick Handicapped Children's Committee. In 1990, the organisation was re-registered as St. Gabriel's School & Centre, and in 2021, it adopted the name St. Gabriel's Foundation to reflect its expanded scope and growing impact across the Mid-West region.

St. Gabriel's is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) without share capital and is exempt from using the word "Limited" under Section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014. The organisation is a registered charity (CHY No. 5548), recognised for its charitable tax exemption status, and is listed with the Companies Registration Office (No. 23946) and the Charities Regulator (No. 20008536).

Leadership and Oversight

Governance at St. Gabriel's is led by a voluntary Board of Directors, who serve without remuneration and are responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the organisation. The Board ensures that all activities align with our mission and values, and that we operate with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Day-to-day operations are managed by Chief Executive Officer Treasa McAuliffe, who reports directly to the Board. Under her leadership, the organisation continues to grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of children and families across the region.

Commitment to Best Practice

As stewards of public funding and charitable donations, St. Gabriel's places strong emphasis on good governance. The Board adheres to the standards set out in the Charities Governance Code and strives to maintain an effective, efficient, and ethically run organisation.

In 2024, St. Gabriel's was proud to receive Triple Lock Certification from the Charities Institute of Ireland. This certification recognises excellence in three key areas: transparent annual reporting, ethical fundraising, and robust governance practices. It reflects our ongoing commitment to accountability and public trust.

We continue to work closely with local and national agencies, government bodies, and regulatory authorities to strengthen our policies and procedures. Our affiliations with relevant organisations ensure that we remain informed, responsive, and aligned with sectorwide best practices.

Regulatory Compliance and Duty of Care

St. Gabriel's maintains full compliance with GDPR regulations and upholds a strong duty of care to all stakeholders—children, families, staff, and partners. We work to meet national standards set by bodies such as HIQA, CORU, and the INMO, ensuring that our services are safe, professional, and person-centred.

Good governance is not just a requirement—it is a core value that permeates every level of our organisation. From the Boardroom to the classroom, from clinical services to community outreach, our commitment to excellence and ethical leadership guides everything we do.

Reference and Administrative Details

Name: St. Gabriel's Foundation (Formerly St. Gabriel's School & Centre)

Limited by Guarantee (CLG)

Registered Office: Crabtree House, Springfield Drive,

Dooradoyle, Limerick, V94 VY9Y Company Registration No. 23946 Revenue Charity No. CHY5548 Charities Regulatory No. 20008536 Principal Bankers: Bank of Ireland, 125 O'Connell St, Limerick

Vetting

St. Gabriel's is fully compliant with the obligation of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act, 2012 which commenced in April 2016. St. Gabriel's applies Child Protection policies, which are based on the Children First Act 2015 and Children First Guidelines 2017, and best practice recruitment policies and procedures.

Accounting Records

The Board believe that they have complied with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act, 2014 with regard to accounting records by employing personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of St. Gabriel's are maintained at Crabtree House, Springfield Drive, Dooradoyle, Limerick.

Lobbying and Political Contributions

There were no political contributions in 2023 and as a result no disclosures are required under the Electoral Act, 1997.

As required under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015, St. Gabriel's records all lobbying activity and communications engaged in with the Designated Public Officials (DPOs). It has made all the returns and submissions required by the Act.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no events subsequent to the year-end that require any adjustment to or additional disclosure in the 2023 financial statements

Tax Clearance

St. Gabriel's complies with Circular 44/2006 "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments" by providing its tax clearance access number to grant providers when requested.

Auditor

The Auditor, Moore Stephens Patrick McNamara, has agreed to continue in office under Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014.

Triple Lock Status

St. Gabriel's Foundation adheres to the guidelines as set out by the Charity Regulator and achieved Triple Lock Status from the Charities Institute of Ireland in 2024.







Contact us

St. Gabriel's Foundation,
Springfield Drive, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 VY9Y.

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Hydotherapy Pool

T: +353 61 302733 - extension 2 E: hydropool@stgabriels.ie

Orthotics Clinic

T: +353 61 302733 - extension 4 E: orthotics@stgabriels.ie

Treehouse Children's Disability Network Team

T: +353 61 302733 - extension 1 E: treehouseteam@stgabriels.ie

St. Gabriel's South City Children's Disability Network Team

Unit 11, Ashdown Centre, Ashbourne Ave, South Circular Rd, Limerick, V94 38Y1 T: +353 86 1081813 E: southcity@stgabriels.ie

St. Gabriel's Children's Respite House

Moneteen, Mungret, Co. Limerick, V94 59R9 T: +353 61 302642 E: info@stgabriels.ie

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