ST. CRONAN'S N.S

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23rd Oct 2026

Primary School Survey

On behalf of the Board of Management, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the recent Department of Education Primary School Survey and the subsequent community feedback phase. The exceptional level of engagement reflects the deep care, commitment, and passion that you all hold for the future of St. Cronan's N.S.

Over the past few weeks, the Board has engaged in a thorough and comprehensive assessment of all data gathered. We have reviewed the initial statistical survey results alongside the detailed written submissions provided during the feedback phase.
Following this period of extensive deliberation, the Board of Management has made the decision to remain under our current Catholic patronage model with the Archdiocese of Dublin.

We recognise that the initial survey indicated a preference for a change to a multi-denominational patron among 62% of responding parents. However, the qualitative feedback phase was an immensely telling and vital forum that allowed us to understand the nuanced reasoning within our community. When analysing the detailed written submissions, there was a significantly higher proportion of voices advocating for the preservation of our current ethos and highlighting vital operational realities that the Board must prioritize.

This decision was not taken lightly, and was grounded in several key considerations aimed at securing the best educational environment for our students at this present time.

St. Cronan's has undergone monumental changes in recent years. The successful transition to a fully vertical, co-educational school, the expansion of our Autism Classes, and the rollout of the new Primary Curriculum Framework represent a massive undertaking. The feedback strongly highlighted that our staff and school community require a period of stability to effectively embed these changes before embarking on another profound structural overhaul.

Initiating a change of patronage would necessitate a restructuring of the governance structure, implementing new organisation specific frameworks, altering school policies, and training staff. At a time when our teaching staff is already managing significant curricular updates, the Board must safeguard the school's capacity to deliver high-quality daily education without overextending our resources.

Many feedback submissions highlighted the positive, values-based environment nurtured by our current ethos—promoting kindness, respect, forgiveness, and community care. We firmly believe these values are universal and can continue to be celebrated alongside our rich tradition and links to the local community.

The qualitative feedback demonstrated that while some families desire structural change, a significant portion of active families, community members, and staff value the current ethos and traditions. Pushing through a structural reconfiguration without unanimous community consensus risks fracturing community cohesion, whereas we believe refining current inclusion practices may preserve a unity.

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While we are maintaining our current patronage, we wish to acknowledge the very valid concerns raised by those who sought a change. We want to explicitly reassure families who expressed unease regarding faith formation, sacramental preparation, and the inclusivity of our school environment.

Inclusivity is not just a concept at St. Cronan's; it is a lived reality. We are acutely aware that for families of other faiths and none, the current mechanisms for "opting out" of religious instruction can sometimes feel exclusionary. As a direct result of this consultation process, the Board is continuing a period of reflection and review regarding our current practices around faith formation during the school day. We are committed to exploring practical solutions, including how "opt-out" time is managed to ensure it is a meaningful and positive experience for those children, rather than a time where they feel separated from their peers. We shall also be assessing the time dedicated to sacramental preparation in older classes to ensure it aligns with the time allocations of the 2023 Primary Curriculum Framework.

We will continue to celebrate diverse cultures, worldviews, and festivals throughout the school year.

At St. Cronan's, our motto is *"everyone gets opportunities to succeed."* We remain steadfastly committed to ensuring that every child who walks through our gates feels equally valued, respected, and thoroughly at home, regardless of their background or beliefs. The Board also notes that the recent feedback confirmed an overwhelming preference to retain our current highly successful co-educational model and to remain with English as the primary language of instruction.

We thank you once again for your honesty, your engagement, and your ongoing support of St. Cronan's N.S.

Yours sincerely,

The Board of Management St. Cronan's National School