



STEPASIDE ETNS

SEPTEMBER 14TH 2026



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a New School Year! It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils, families and staff back to SETNS for the start of another school year. There is always a great sense of energy and excitement in September as classrooms come back to life and we settle into the routines of a new term.

Like many schools, we begin this year navigating some challenges, particularly around teacher recruitment and the loss of two teaching posts due to enrolment numbers. Despite this, our focus remains firmly on providing the best possible experiences for our pupils and continuing to develop and grow as a school community.

There is lots to look forward to this year. We are excited to progress our plans for outdoor learning and our outdoor classroom, launch our new school choir, continue to develop links with local community partners and businesses such as Microsoft, and build on the fantastic sporting opportunities available to our pupils.

Most importantly, we look forward to another year of learning, friendship, creativity and achievement together. Thank you, as always, to our staff, pupils and families for the energy and support you bring to our school community. We are looking forward to a busy and positive year ahead!

Leona



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 
- **15th September** - International Day of Democracy
 - **18th September** - Student Council Polling Day
 - **24th September** - PAC AGM - 7:30pm in Stepping Stones Hall - all welcome!
 - **Class Meetings to be held on the following dates:**
 - **18th Sept:** Senior Infants B
 - **22nd Sept:** Senior Infants A, 1st class and 2nd Class
 - **23rd Sept:** Junior Infants, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class
 - **24th September:** Stepping Stones Junior and Senior
 - **23rd October** - Mid Term Break

LOST PROPERTY

As always, we unfortunately have many unclaimed items in Lost and Found area inside the doors by the bike shed. Unclaimed items will be cleared at the end of each month and donated to charity. We encourage all families to label clothing/bottles/accessories. Thank you for your cooperation.

UPDATE TO CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

Stepaside Educate Together National School is currently in the process of updating our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment in line with the updated Child Protection Procedures 2025. (To be implemented by 31st December 2026)

As part of this process, the school has reviewed the activities, practices and events that take place during the school year where there may be a potential risk of harm to children. Our Risk Assessment identifies these potential risks and, importantly, the policies, procedures and practices that we have in place to minimise and manage them.

Our **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)** for child protection is Leona Griffin, Principal, and our **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp)** is Linda Breheny, Deputy Principal.

Many members of school staff are also mandated persons and have specific responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and protection of children.

Before the updated Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are presented to the Board of Management for ratification, we would like to invite parents and guardians to contribute to the process.

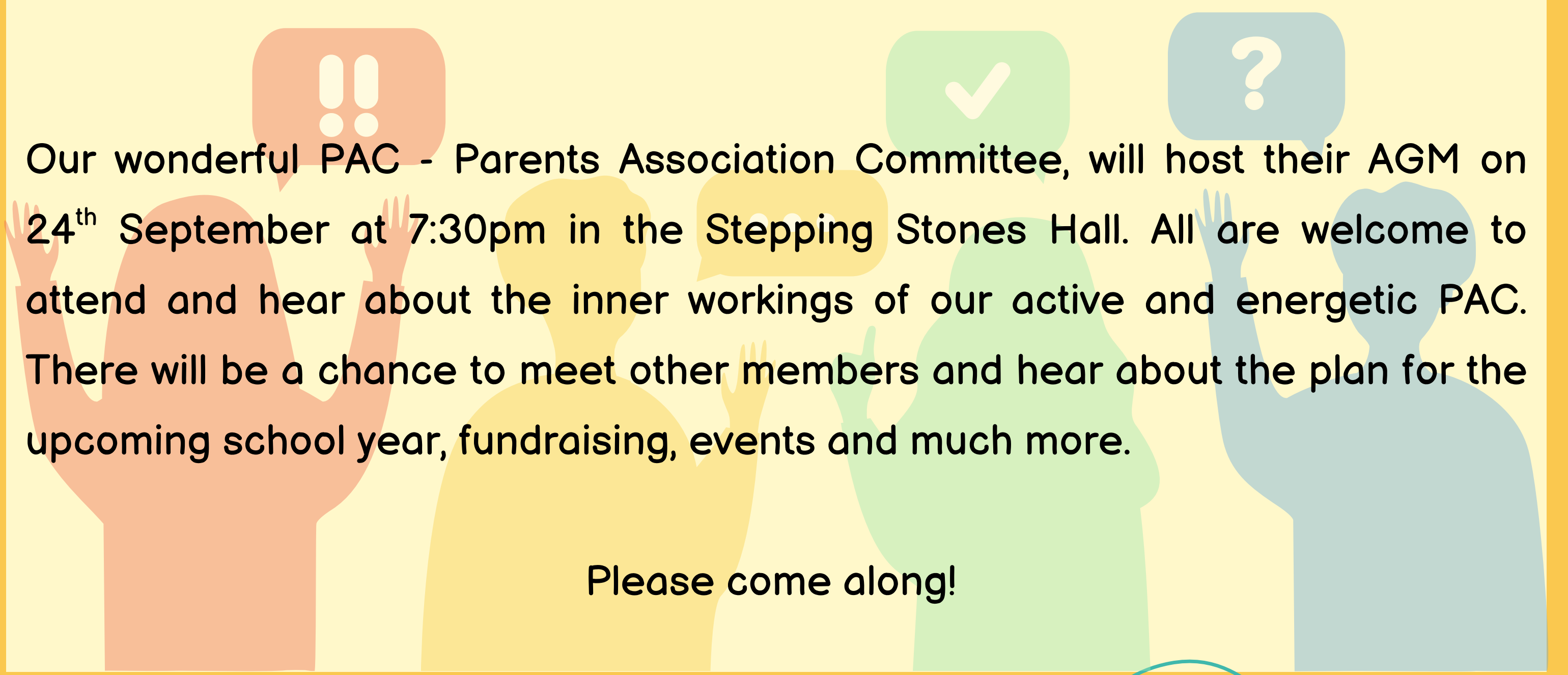
The Board will hold its first meeting of the new school year later this month, at which the updated documents will be considered. We are therefore sharing a Google Form with our parent body to provide an opportunity for you to highlight any safeguarding risks, activities or circumstances which you feel should be considered as part of the school's Risk Assessment.

[Click here to share your feedback](#)

We have sought to consider the full range of activities and circumstances that arise during school life and the measures that we have in place to reduce the risk of harm. However, parent and guardian input is an important part of this process, and we welcome any additional observations or suggestions. All feedback received will be considered as part of the review process and, where appropriate, reflected in the Risk Assessment before it is presented to the Board of Management.

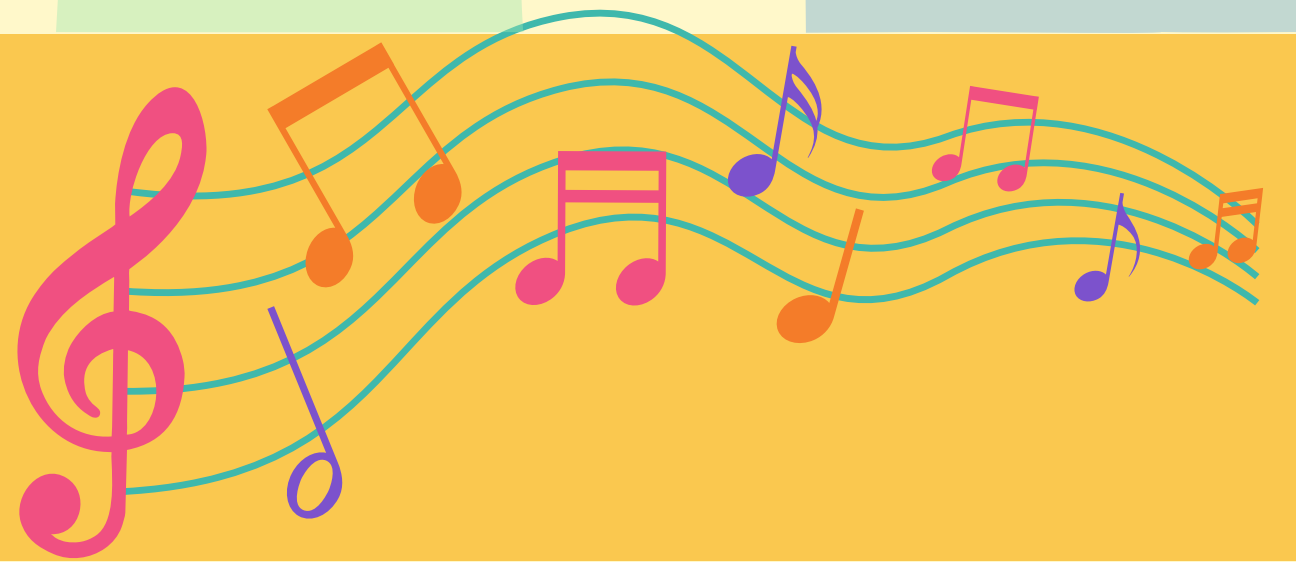
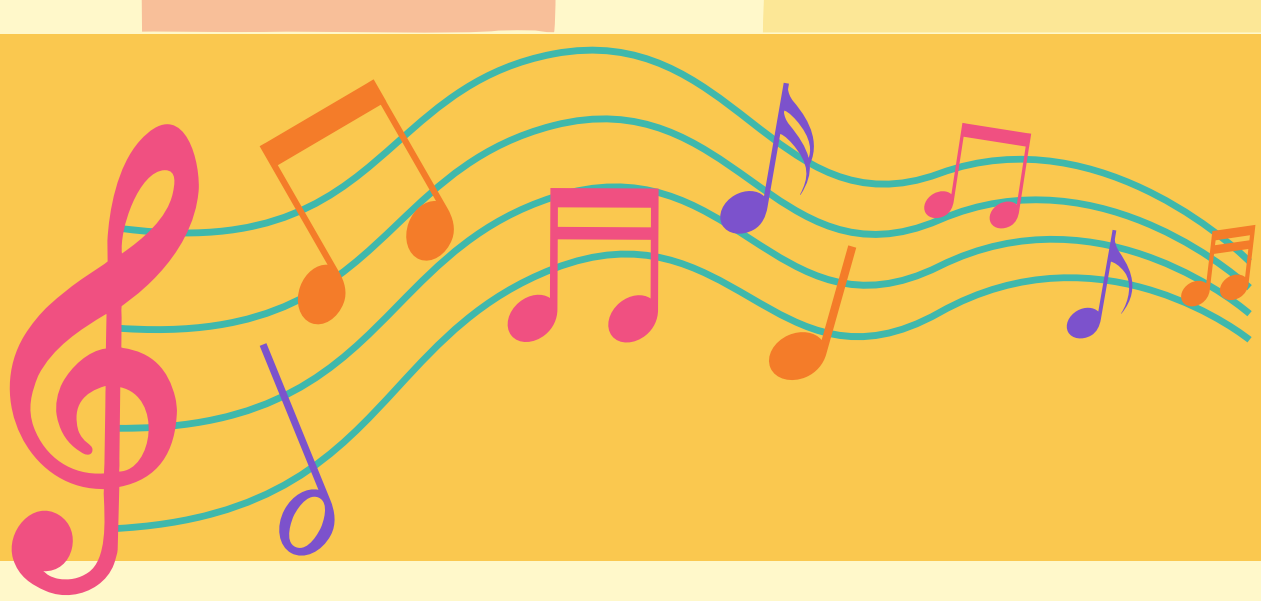
You can read more information [here](#) about the updated Child Protection Procedures.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AGM



Our wonderful PAC - Parents Association Committee, will host their AGM on 24th September at 7:30pm in the Stepping Stones Hall. All are welcome to attend and hear about the inner workings of our active and energetic PAC. There will be a chance to meet other members and hear about the plan for the upcoming school year, fundraising, events and much more.

Please come along!



MUSIC GENERATION - 1ST AND 2ND CLASS

1st and 2nd classes will be starting with Music Generation next Friday, Sept 18th on their programme "Music 101" which will run for 12 weeks.

Each class will have a 30 minute session with the musician Donal Martin. The programme aims to introduce children to music theory with a focus on movement, fun and instrument playing.

We look forward to welcoming Donal back to our classrooms again this term as the boys and girls really enjoyed his lessons last year.

In the second term, Donal will move onto some of our senior classes to continue teaching the ukulele, which also began last year.

You can read more about Music Generation by clicking [here](#).

JUNIOR INFANTS UPDATE

Our new Junior Infants have been very busy settling into life at SETNS! Over the past few weeks, they have been getting to know their teachers, learning their new classroom and school routines, and becoming familiar with their new surroundings.

There has been lots of fun along the way, with plenty of opportunities to play, explore, create and learn together. Most importantly, the children have been busy making new friends and learning how to work, share and play together as part of their new class communities.

We are delighted to see them settling in so well and look forward to watching them grow in confidence as the year continues! Well done boys and girls!



SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

You may remember last year we shared a school survey with our parent body in relation to school patronage. Results were published in June and we are now sharing these with our school community.

The Primary School Survey provides the most comprehensive picture to date of the views of parents and guardians on the future direction of primary education in their communities.

The survey examined preferences on school patronage and ethos, co-educational or single-sex provision and language of instruction (English or Irish).

The Board of Management will soon review the findings and we welcome any and all feedback from parents on these results.

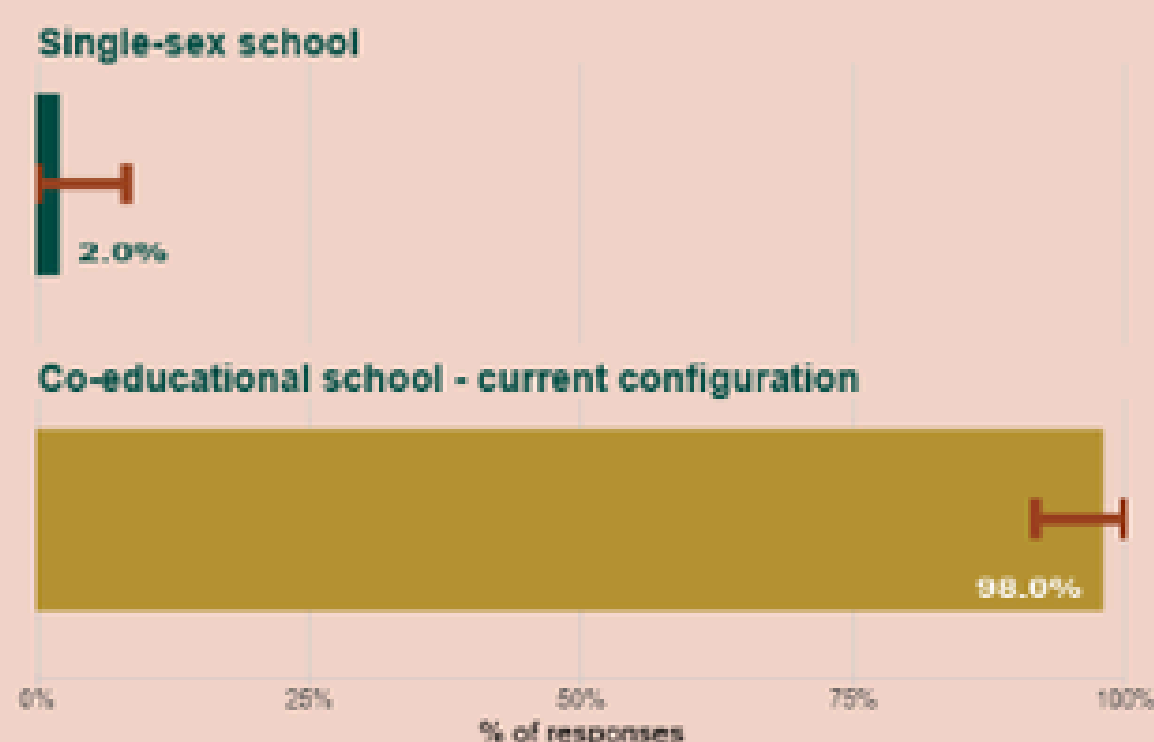
If you wish to share any feedback, please do so by emailing the office, with the subject line "Survey Feedback", info@stepasideetns.ie

Primary School Survey School Specific Results

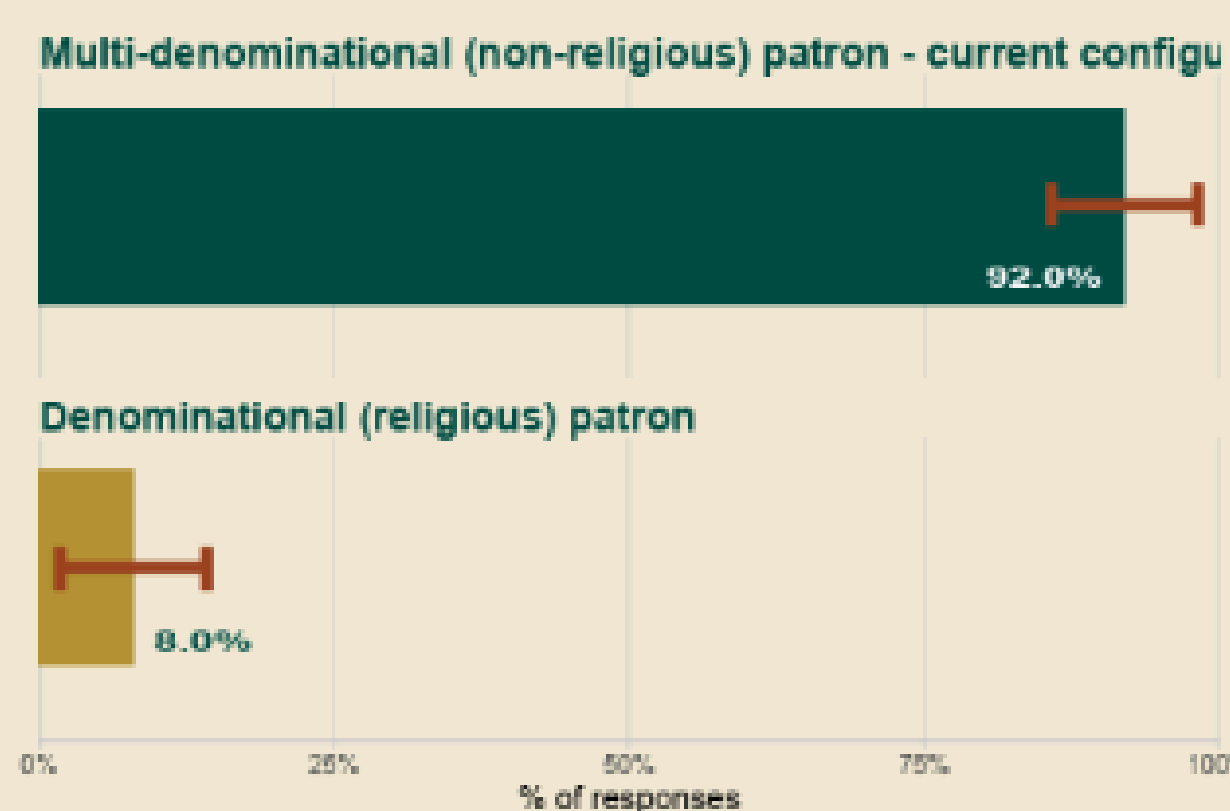
Stepaside Educate Together National School, 20401G
Ballinteer_Stepaside_DLR, Dublin

Results from parents and guardians with children in this school

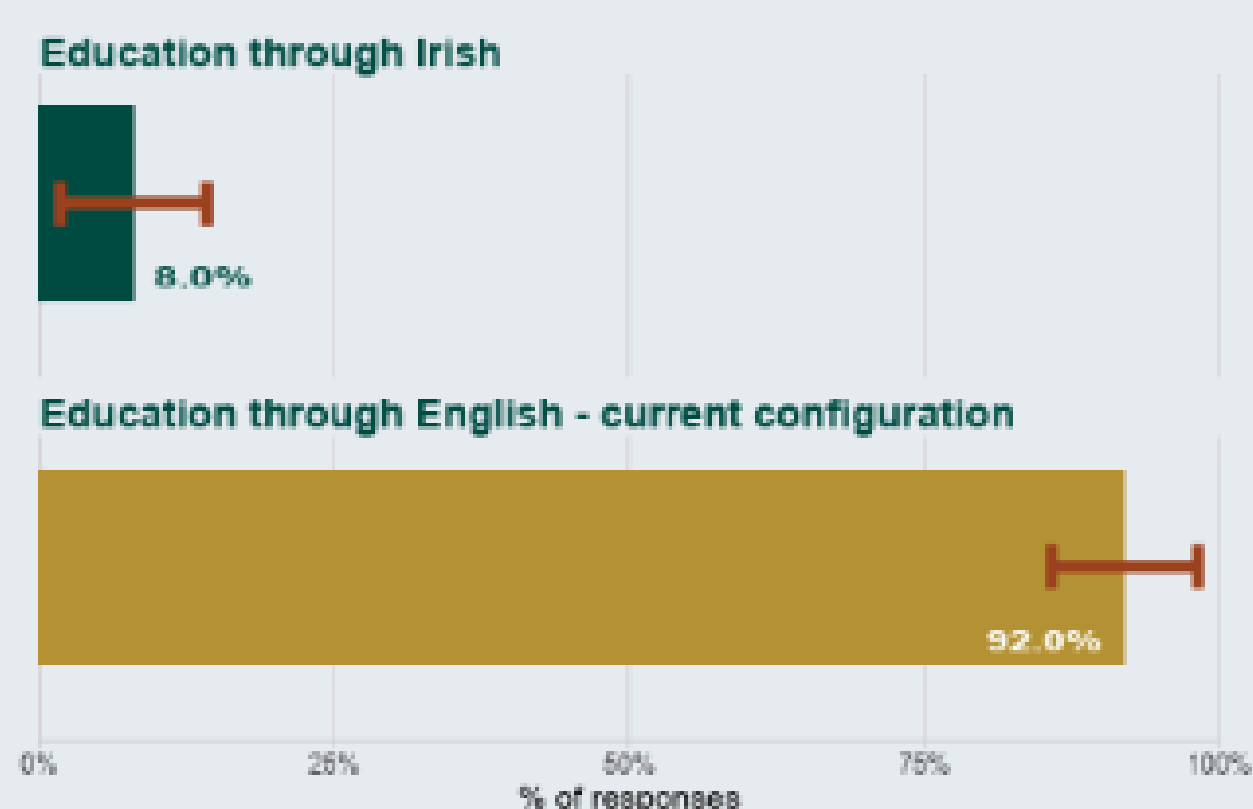
Co-educational / single-sex preference



Patronage / ethos preference



Language preference



School Response Rate

42%

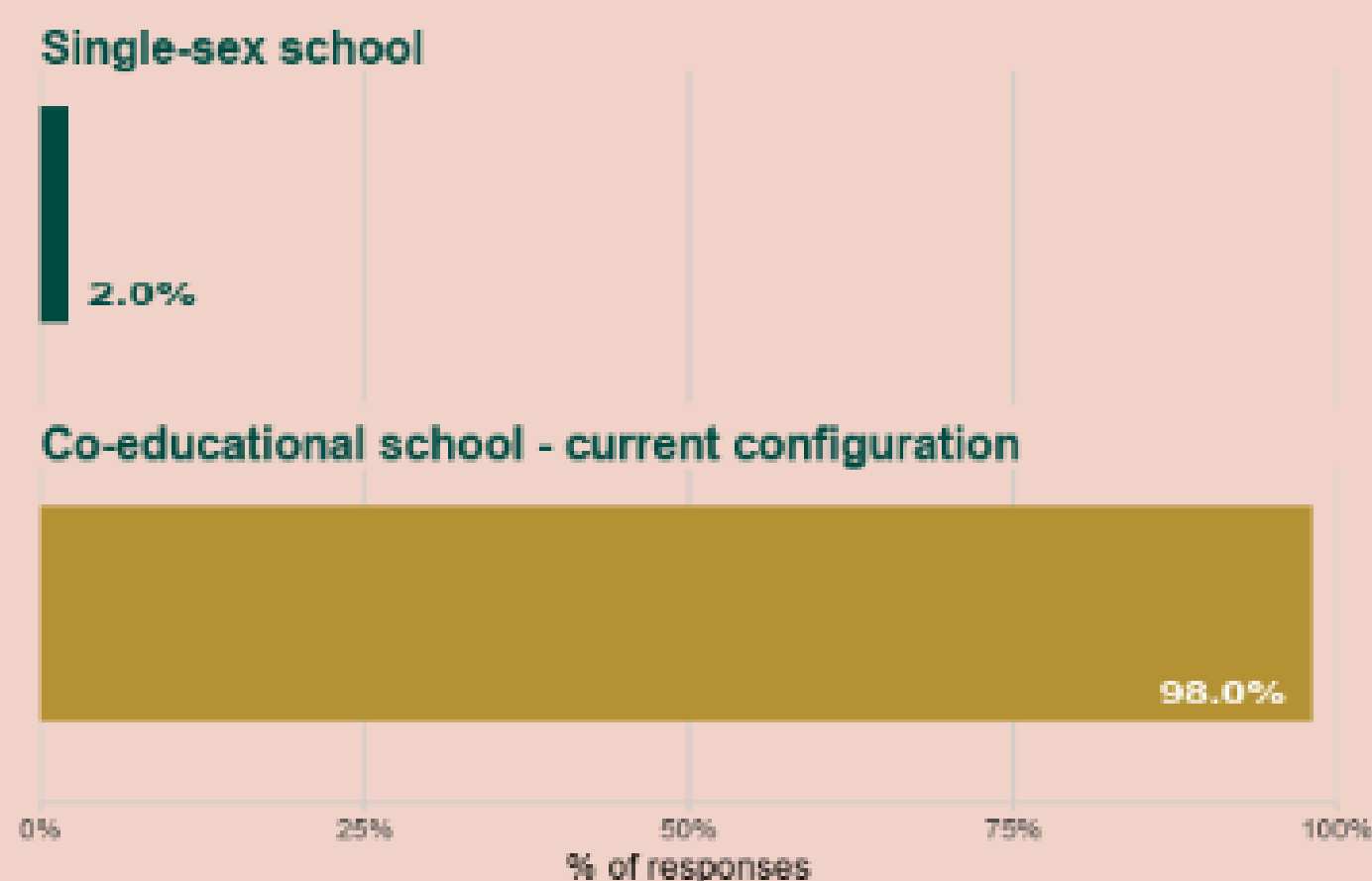
172 out of 410 households

Overall School Margin of Error

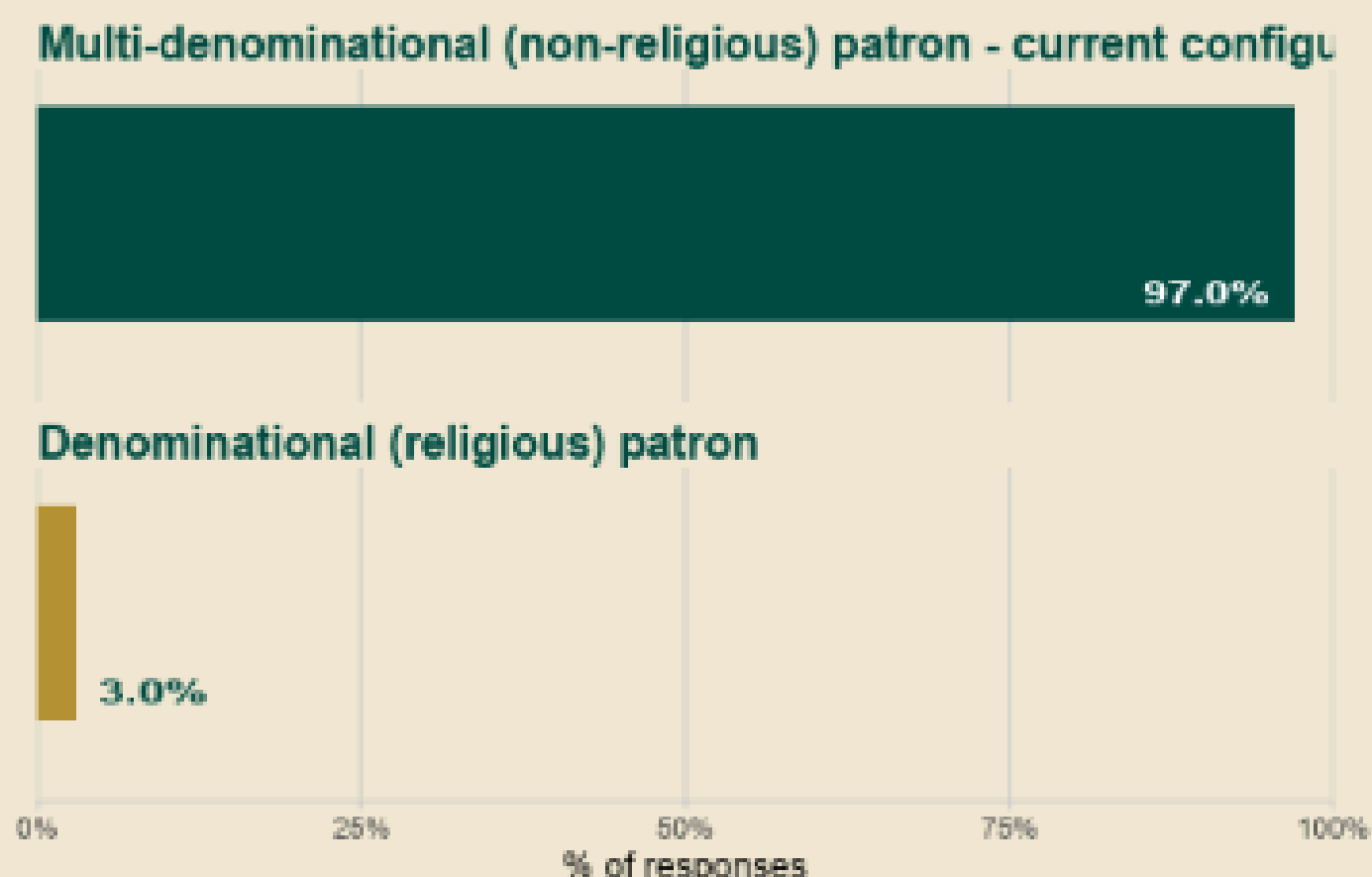
Preferences will be $\pm 6.2\%$
(indicated by red bar)

Results from 66 parents and guardians who indicated that they intend to enrol their children in this school in the future

Co-educational / single-sex preference



Patronage / ethos preference



EPV DAY COVER EXPLAINED

EPV days are planned, non-substitutable absences and therefore cover must be arranged from within the school.

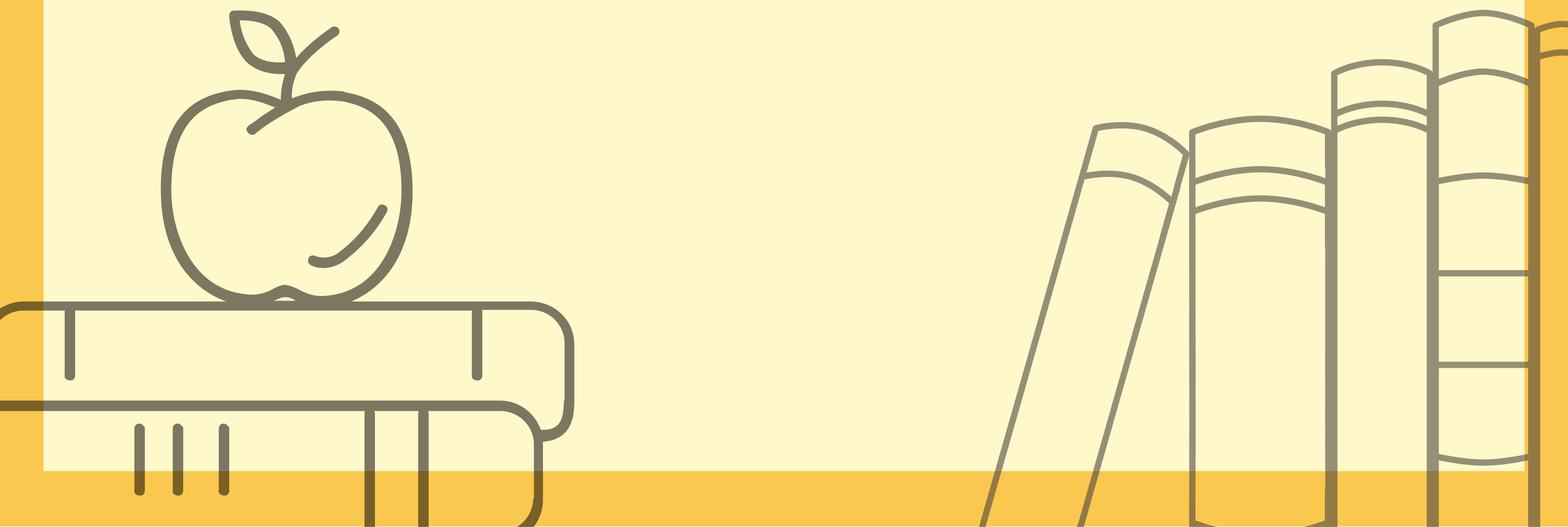
Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Stepping Stones classes will not be split to facilitate EPV cover. Where a teacher from one of these classes takes an EPV day, we will do our best to provide cover using a teacher from within the school.

To facilitate this, teachers in Second to Sixth Class may occasionally be asked to provide cover in another class, with their own class being split for the day. The aim is to share this as evenly and fairly as possible across the year, with each teacher generally expected to provide cover on approximately one occasion.

Where a Second to Sixth Class teacher takes an EPV day, their class may be split across the other classes, where necessary.

For Stepping Stones, we will do our best to facilitate cover from within the school for all teacher absences, where staffing allows.

Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum and to distribute EPV cover fairly across staff and classes throughout the school year.



CHOSEN CHARITIES FOR THE YEAR

As always, we will be inviting our school community to help choose the charities that SETNS will support this year.

If you would like to nominate a charity for consideration, please send your suggestion to info@stepasideetns.ie as soon as possible, using the subject line "Charity Suggestion." All nominated charities will then be included in a Google Form for our school community to vote on.

As a reminder, our chosen charities last year were:

Barnardos – our local charity

Médecins Sans Frontières – our international charity

We look forward to hearing your suggestions!

LEARN TOGETHER
ETHICAL
EDUCATION
CURRICULUM

OUR VALUE OF
THE MONTH IS:



OUR SONG OF THE MONTH IS:



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AGREED REPORT JUNE 2026

- The Board would like to thank all school staff, management, teachers, ANAs, Magda, Nathalie and Paul for their hard work and dedication over the last school year.
- The Board also wish to express their gratitude to the PAC, librarians and parent volunteers who have facilitated so many wonderful school events this year.
- The Board would like to wish the class of 2026 all the very best. We say farewell to a fabulous cohort of students who are about to embark on the next step of their lives. Congratulations class of 2026!
- The Board would like to thank the Linda and all the staff for continuing the provision of the Summer Programme this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and families and we are lucky to be able to run this programme again this summer, despite the challenges and delays in communication from the Department.
- The Board was delighted to hear of another successful Sports Day this year. Well done to all involved in the organisation and running of the day.
- The Board met with the PAC in a joint meeting and discussed the priorities and general plan for next year. Amendments to the Constitution were discussed at this meeting.
- Best wishes to Anna on her upcoming wedding over the summer break.
- The Board will hold their next meeting on September 22nd.