June NEWSLETTER

Dear St. Cronan's Junior School Families,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, it is hard to believe just how much we have shared, achieved, and celebrated together over the past ten months. Looking back, I am filled with an enormous sense of pride and gratitude for the incredible children, staff, parents, guardians, and wider community who make St. Cronan's such a special place.

This year has been filled with memorable moments from beginning to end. We welcomed our newest Junior Infants into our school family in September and watched them grow in confidence, independence, and happiness throughout the year. Across every classroom, our children embraced new learning, developed new friendships, discovered new talents, and continued to show us what it means to live our school motto, *To Be The Best That We Can Be.*

Together, we celebrated Kindness Week, Grandparents' Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, our Fireside Read, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Spring Fair, school tours, assemblies, concerts, and so many other special events that brought joy and connection to our school community. We launched our Student Council, welcomed our reading dog Socks, developed exciting new learning opportunities through our Physical Activity in Teaching and Learning Project, and continued to improve our school through new resources and facilities made possible by the incredible support of our families and community partners.

Throughout the year, I have been continually inspired by the kindness, enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience shown by our children. Whether performing on stage, helping a friend in the yard, representing their class on Student Council, taking part in school events, or simply arriving each morning with a smile, they have reminded us every day why our work is such a privilege.

I would like to sincerely thank our dedicated staff, whose care, professionalism, and commitment ensure that every child feels valued, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential. Thank you also to our Parents' Association, Board of Management, and all of our families for your partnership, generosity, and unwavering support throughout the year. The strong relationship between home and school is one of our greatest strengths, and together we have created a community where children can truly flourish.

As we prepare to say goodbye for the summer, we do so with hearts full of happy memories and excitement for the future. To our wonderful 2nd Class pupils, we wish you every success as you move on to the Senior School. You will always remain an important part of the St. Cronan's family, and we are so proud of all you have achieved.

I hope that the summer months bring opportunities for rest, fun, adventure, and precious time with family and friends. Thank you for being part of another extraordinary year in St. Cronan's Junior School.

Warmest Wishes,

Edel Blake

Erasmus Plus

As we look ahead to the 2026/2027 school year, we are delighted to share some exciting news for our school community. St. Cronan's Junior School has been successful in its application for an Erasmus+ Mobility Project. Erasmus+ is a European Union programme that supports learning, professional development and collaboration between schools across Europe.

Through this project, members of our staff will have the opportunity to visit and learn from schools in other European countries, observing innovative teaching practices, sharing ideas and building valuable international connections. These experiences will support our ongoing commitment to providing the very best educational experiences for our children and will allow us to bring fresh ideas, new perspectives and examples of best practice back to our classrooms. We hosted some teachers and school leaders from France this year and they were very impressed with the standard of teaching, learning and inclusion in our school.

We are incredibly proud to be part of this wider European learning community and look forward to sharing our Erasmus+ journey with you as the project develops. It is an exciting opportunity for our school and another important step in our commitment to continuous improvement, lifelong learning and providing the highest quality education for every child in our care.



Kids Takeover

Four French teachers came to visit our classroom. They were very kind. We made them French flags. One teacher speaks very good English. We said an Irish poem for them. The name of the poem is An Bogha Baisti . The poem is about rainbows and pots of gold. We asked them lots of questions. One of them was the principal. They all like Harry Potter. They like the colour of our classroom. School in France is longer. Tadgh, R15

Four teachers came to our class. We asked them lots of questions. We welcomed them to our class and made French flags. We said a poem in Irish for them. We learned how to say hello and goodbye in French. Kalvan, R15

Four French teachers visited our classroom last week. We made French flags for our visitors and learned how to say hello and goodbye to them in French. They told us what school is like in France. We said a poem for them and did SPHE and phonics. Senan, R15

Some French visitors came to our school. We learned how to say bonjour, it means hello and au revoir that means goodbye. We learned some facts about France before they came to our class. We did phonics and SPHE. They came on Wednesday the 15th of April. I really liked it. Danyil, R15

Roots of Empathy

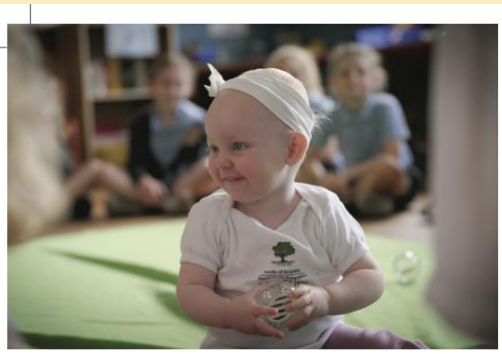
We are delighted to share that the **Roots of Empathy** programme will be coming to St. Cronan's Junior School from October 2026.

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based programme that helps children develop empathy, emotional literacy, kindness and understanding through observing the growth and development of a baby during their first year of life. Through guided discussions and regular visits from a parent and baby, children learn about feelings, relationships, inclusion and caring for others. Research has shown that the programme can help children develop stronger social and emotional skills and create more caring classroom communities.

At the heart of the programme is a local parent and baby who visit the classroom throughout the school year. The baby becomes the children's "tiny teacher" as they learn about growth, development and emotions.

We are currently looking for a volunteer family with a baby born in **late May, June, July or August 2026**, who will be approximately 2–4 months old when the programme begins in October. If you think you, a family member, friend or neighbour might be interested in taking part, please contact the school office. We are very excited to bring this wonderful programme to our school community. I have attached more information to the newsletter email





Q. What is Roots of Empathy?

Roots of Empathy is an award-winning programme for Primary school children.

The programmes aim is to increase empathy and help children to learn about a baby's needs and development in their first year of life.

Q. How does it work?

At the heart of the programme is a local community parent who volunteers their time to visit a class with their baby throughout the school year. A trained Roots of Empathy Instructor supports the children to observe how the baby grows, naming and talking about feelings, and thinking about the feelings of others (Empathy).

Q. What is the time commitment?

The parent and baby visits a class 9 times in total over the school year, once every 3 weeks approximately. Each visit is about 30 minutes long.

Q. What will I have to do, will I have to teach anything in the class?

The Instructor will tell you in advance what the class will be talking about before each visit and will lead all of the lessons. Parents are invited to share with students how it feels to be a parent and talk about how their baby is growing and learning. Students will have lots of questions about your baby and what it takes to be a parent.

Q. What will my baby do?

The Instructor supports the children to follow the baby's lead and cues using lots of interactive sensory baby activities. The baby is the star of the show and the children's Tiny Teacher!

Our commitment to you

At the start of the year, the Instructor will meet with you and explain how the programme will run and answer any questions you may have.

We try our best to match parents and babies to participating schools within their locality where possible.

Q. How do I volunteer with my baby for the programme?

All parents and all babies are welcome to participate in the programme If you're interested in finding out more information and/or volunteering with your baby go to barnardos.ie/rootsofempathy.

Movie Night

Our first ever Movie Night was held on Thursday 4th June. Over 160 children came and enjoyed a beloved movie, treat bags and fun and laughter with their friends and school staff while being in the school at night.

It was so much fun we absolutely plan to do this again. We are thinking of a Halloween Event – we could enjoy some spooky movies and see what the school looks like when it is really dark!

The night was such a success that once we covered expenses the extra money was assigned to buying extra play resources for the yard. Our wonderful 2nd class children voted on what toys to buy – leaving them behind as a gift as they prepare to move to 2nd class.





Thank you & Goodbye

We have some very hard goodbyes to say this month. Yvonne our lovely secretary is retiring as are 3 of our amazing SNAs – Bridie, Suzanne and Helena. Each of these incredible ladies has made inclusive education possible for countless numbers of children.
Each of them comes to work with a smile on their face each day, they work tirelessly with teachers to ensure all children can access and participate in school life. They have participated in lots of professional development to ensure our practices our up to date and evidence based. They will be a huge loss to the school, the children, our wonderful SNA team and to all our staff.
Bridie, Suzanne and Helena you will be missed but we wish you the happiest and longest retirements. Enjoy the new adventure.



Curriculum Meetings – Building Relationships from Day 1

Each year, we hold **Curriculum Meetings** for parents and guardians at the beginning of the school year. These meetings provide an opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet their teacher and learn about the year ahead.

During the meeting, teachers will share information about the curriculum, classroom routines, expectations, attendance, homework, communication and class rules. It is also a valuable opportunity to gain an insight into how teaching and learning takes place in your child's classroom and to ask any general questions you may have.

We believe these meetings are an important part of starting the school year on the right foot. They help to establish a strong partnership between home and school from the very beginning and ensure that everyone is working together to support our children to be the very best that they can be.

Children will be supervised in another room during the meetings, so we encourage all parents and guardians to attend if possible. Please note all room numbers refer to room numbers for 2026 – 2027.

Curriculum Meeting Dates:

14th September 2026:

Room 1 & Room 3 – 1PM

Room 2A, Room 16 & Room 9 – 2PM

15th September 2026:

Room 2 & Room 4 – 1PM

Room 3A, Room 5 & Room 10 – 2PM

16th September 2026:

Room 7 , Room 8 & Room 1A – 1PM

Room 19, Room 11 & Room 13 – 2PM

18th September 2026:

Room 5 & Room 6 – 1PM

Room 20 & Room 12 – 2PM



Open Day 2026

Open Day 2026 will be held on Wednesday 9th September from 2:50 – 4:30. It is a great opportunity for all siblings, neighbours, friends and cousins who will be in Junior Infants in 2027/2028 to explore our happy, colourful school. Please spread the world to people you meet, on facebook, Instagram and whats app groups. Enrolment for 2027 will open on 1st October 2026. Enrolment is online through our website - www.stcronansjns.ie

Survey Results



Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent Primary School Survey.

The Department of Education and Youth carried out this survey to find out about the type of schools that parents/guardians prefer.

We are now sharing our school's survey results with you.
The below survey results show:
The preferences of parents/guardians of children currently enrolled in our school; and
The preferences of parents/guardians of children not yet enrolled who indicated an intention to enrol in our school.

The results outline the preferences of parents/guardians for:
Co-educational or single-sex provision
Patronage/ethos
Language of instruction (English or Irish)

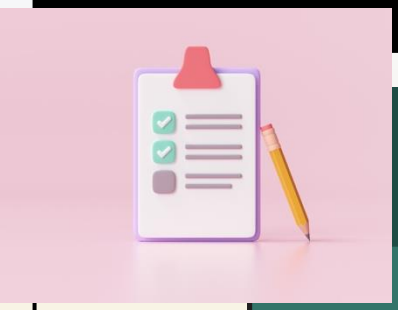
How to understand the survey results
We have attached guidance to help you understand the survey results. In simple terms:
The percentages in green and gold show what the parents/guardians who took part in the survey prefer.
The red line shows the margin of error. This gives a range around the survey result, showing how much the result might be higher or lower if **all** parents/guardians of children in our school had responded.
For example:
if the whole red line is **above 50%**, this means it is likely that more than half of all parents/guardians prefer that option, even allowing for the margin of error.

What happens next
The Board of Management will now review the survey results and think about what they mean for our school.

As part of this, we want to make sure that parents/guardians, staff, students, and the wider school community can share their views with us. Once we have gathered all feedback, we will consider it carefully and then let you know about any decisions we make and next steps.
For example, if there is a clear preference for a change (please note there is no clear preference for change in our school), the school may submit an 'expression of interest form' for change to the department. If this happens, the department will provide us with a dedicated contact person and other supports, to help our school in this process.

Next steps
Please read the below survey results for our school and guidance document.
You can send any comments or feedback to us at **info@stcronansjns.ie** by **30 September**.

Thank you for your support with this survey and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

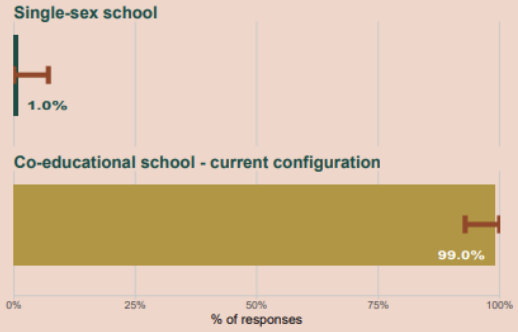


Primary School Survey
School Specific Results

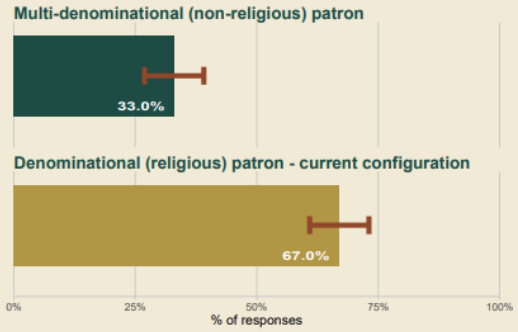
St Cronans Junior National School, 19456B
Swords, Dublin

Results from parents and guardians with children in this school

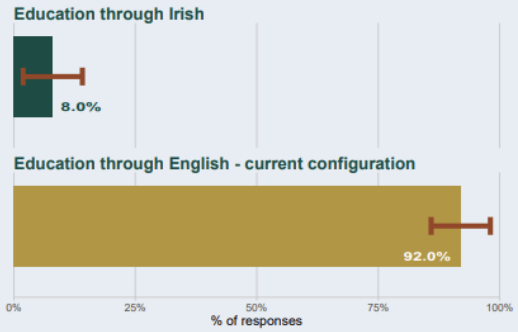
Co-educational / single-sex preference



Patronage / ethos preference



Language preference



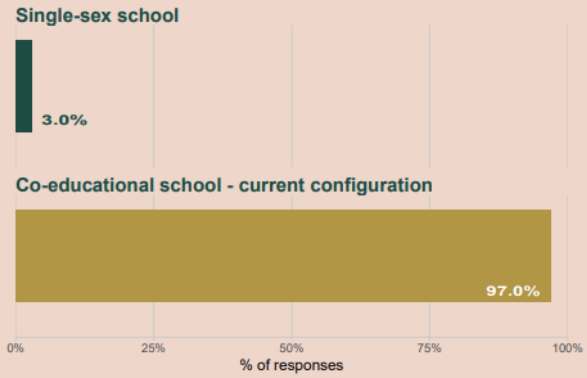
School Response Rate
43%
178 out of 410 households

Overall School Margin of Error
Preferences will be **±6.1%**
(indicated by red bar)

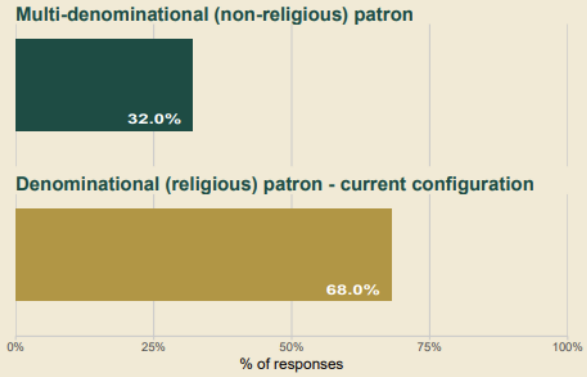
Survey Results

Results from 79 parents and guardians who indicated that they intend to enrol their children in this school in the future

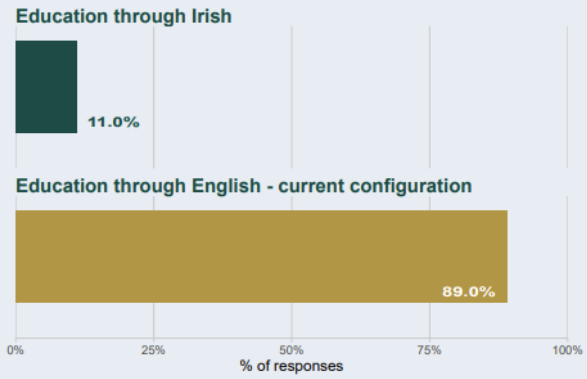
Co-educational / single-sex preference



Patronage / ethos preference



Language preference



Next Steps

The Department of Education and Youth has written to all schools and provided comprehensive information, including on how to understand the survey results and asking each school to reflect on their school-specific report, engage with their school community and consider if the school wishes to request to be included in the first group of schools to action the Primary School Survey results.

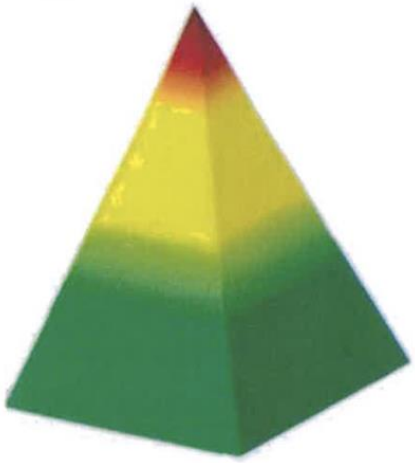
Anseo – Attendance

We set a goal of 92% attendance for June, unfortunately we didn't meet this goal. Our attendance for June so far is – 88.7%. Going forward we are part of a Government (TUSLA – TESS) strategy to improve our attendance across the school. Here is some information:

The Three Tiers

Tier 1: Satisfactory/Regular Attendance	Tier 2: At-Risk for Chronic Absenteeism	Tier 3: Chronic Absenteeism
Attending: 95% or more of the time	Attending: less than 95% but 90% or more of the time	Attending: less than 90% of the time
Goal: At least 80% of students	Goal: No more than 15% of students	Goal: No more than 5% of students

ANSEO
Prevention-Focused Definition of Tiers (Graczyk, 2022)



Tier 3: Chronic Absenteeism
Absent: 10% or more
Attending: 90% or less
Goal: No more than 5% of students

Tier 2: Emerging SAPs, At-Risk for Chronic Absenteeism
Absent: >5% but < 10%
Attending: < 95% but > 90%
Goal: No more than 15% of students

Tier 1: Satisfactory ("Good") Attendance
Absent: 5% or less
Attending: 95% or more of the time
Goal: At least 80% of students

The **ANSEO tiers**

- **Tier 1 (95% and above)**
  - Excellent attendance
  - Continue to encourage and celebrate consistency.
- **Tier 2 (90–94%)**
  - Key focus area for support
  - A few absences noticed – not yet serious but can add up quickly.
  - Early, positive conversations with parents can help identify small barriers (e.g. tired mornings, routines, minor illness).
- **Tier 3 (below 90%)**
  - Attendance is more irregular or concerning.
  - Work closely with parents and supports to get things back on track.
  - Focus on understanding reasons and offering practical help.

New Primary Curriculum Framework

Following 2 school closures in 2025/2025 we are ready to begin enacting the new curriculum. As a staff we have picked the specification (subject area) we would like to focus on next year. We are awaiting to see if the Department of Education will give us our first choice.
This does mean there will be school closures for Curriculum Training. The dates I have been informed of are:
7th September 2026 – Whole School Closure for Whole Staff Training on Child Protection
3rd February 2027 – Whole School Closure for Language Awareness Training
There be 3 more whole school closures for our specification training. We will update the school community when these dates are available.

Lots more information about this new curriculum will be shared here:

https://www.curriculumonline.ie/primary/primary-curriculum-toolkit/parents-and-children/



