



SCOIL SAN EOIN
REDCROSS
CO WICKLOW

INFORMATION BOOKLET

www.scoilsaneoin.ie

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: 0404-41727





PRINCIPAL:	LINDA GREENE
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:	ANNMARIE NUZUM
3RD-6TH CLASS TEACHER:	LINDA GREENE
JUN INF-2ND CLASS:	ANNMARIE NUZUM
RESOURCE/LEARNING	SARAH FITZGERALD
SECRETARY:	MARY FLUSKEY
CARETAKER:	THOMAS BROWNE



SCHOOLBOARD

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIRPERSON:	CAROLINE MOONEY
PRINCIPAL/SECRETARY:	LINDA GREENE
TREASURER: PARENT'S REP:	CATHY NOLAN
PARENTS REP:	TO BE APPOINTED
STAFF REP:	SARAH FITZGERALD
PATRON REPRESENTATIVE:	MARY HEALY
COMMUNITY	SIMONE ARMSTRONG
REPRESENTATIVES:	PAUL O' BRIEN



Scoil San Eoin, Redcross, Co. Wicklow

SCHOOL MOTTO

Ag Fás le hEolas

This motto translates from the Gaelic version to mean

'Growing with Knowledge'

The pupils of Scoil San Eoin grow, develop and flourish, reaching their full potential as children, because of the knowledge they receive during their time here.

As they grow as children into young adults, they are surrounded by a vast variety of knowledge on a daily basis. This is due to the holistic nature of education provided within the school – physical, spiritual, creative and intellectual.

ETHOS STATEMENT

Scoil San Eoin is a co-educational mainstream primary school serving the rural community of Redcross and surrounding areas. The school operates under the patronage of the Archdiocese of Dublin and the ethos of the Catholic Church is reflected in the general practises. We also instil and nurture a spirit of tolerance, respect and interest in other beliefs and religions and our school community consists of people with many varying beliefs and faiths.

Scoil San Eoin aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil, including his/her relationship with other people, the environment and where appropriate, God. A holistic education is provided in order to develop the child's intellectual, physical, cultural, creative, moral and spiritual understanding and knowledge. Self-esteem and confidence are qualities we seek to instil, in order for each child to put these skills into practise and develop their talents. We aim to prepare the child for further education, lifelong learning and to enable the child to contribute to the good of society.

All staff strive to maintain a safe and positive atmosphere with the school. Close collaboration is maintained between school and home in order to lead the child to achieve success in each stage of their education and growth.





Scoil San Eoin N.S. is a two class teacher and one Special Education Needs teacher school, situated in Redcross in Avoca Parish. The school was built in 1963 replacing the older building, which was built in 1895. A great debt is owed to the people of Redcross who fundraised and worked tirelessly to ensure that this new school became a reality.

William O’Keeffe was principal of the school from 1973 until he retired in 2012, at which stage, Linda Greene was appointed to the post. During the summer of 2012 the school was completely renovated, upgraded and modernised. Once again, the people of Redcross, through their generosity of time and skills, made this project possible.

A lovely new classroom, along with disabled w/c and storage, to replace the existing prefabricated building, was completed in September 2015. A further classroom extension was built and completed in 2019. This now means that there are two full size, spacious, modern classrooms, a meeting room/staffroom and a General Purpose room, which can be used for a range of physical activities (Gymnastics, Dance, workshops etc.), wet breaks and group and project work.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND PARENTS REPRESENTATIVES

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT: In accordance with the Code of Practice for the governance of schools the Board of Management (BOM) has 8 members, consisting of the Principal and one staff nominee, two community nominees, two parent nominees and two patron body nominees. Members are listed at the back of this booklet. The term of office of the Board shall be four years.

PARENTS REPRESENTATIVES: In 2017, the system of having a Parents Association in the school was reviewed and the parents completed a survey. It was agreed that Parents Representatives for each class/class grouping would be put in place. The purpose of the Parents Representatives is to provide a structure through which the parents/guardians of pupils attending Scoil San Eoin can work together for the best possible education and welfare of their pupils.

What is the role of the Parents Representatives?

- To represent the views of parents/guardians.
- To develop partnership between the school bodies.
- To work as a team and to have a yearly plan.
- To establish a forum through which parents/guardians and teachers can communicate their opinions and concerns regarding the school, exchange information and research in relation to the education/welfare of the children.



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND PARENTS REPRESENTATIVES

- To help plan and carry out a programme of activities for the year, in consultation with the Principal and Board of Management and to run activities that involve parents/guardians and pupils, whilst keeping parents/guardians informed about activities planned for the school.
- To help raise funds for the school and the Parents Association in consultation with the Principal and Board of Management.

In Scoil San Eoin, we value the input and energy of all volunteer parents/guardians. This, we feel, is what makes the school a part of the wider community. If you would be interested in volunteering for events/activities or have a skill set you would like to share with the pupils during the year, please contact the school office or a Parents Rep.





ADVANTAGES OF A MULTI-CLASS SETTING

Scoil San Eoin currently has 2 multi-grade classrooms. The Junior Room consists of Junior Infants to Second Class and the Senior Room is home to Third to Sixth Class. Parents sometimes have concerns regarding the teaching and learning within a multi class setting, as they may only be familiar with a single class situation. However, studies, and our experiences in Scoil San Eoin, have proved that being a pupil in a multi-grade classroom has several advantages both socially and academically. Some of these are outlined below.

- **SKILLS** - Pupils in multi-grade classrooms learn the skill of working in groups as well as working on their own, sooner than children in single-grade classrooms. Children become independent learners by the nature of the classroom needs, and develop the skills of producing independent projects and interacting in a variety of group activities. This is because of having to respond to the different age and ability levels of the children around them.
- **LEARNING FROM OTHERS AND REINFORCEMENT OF MATERIAL** - The pupils are always listening to the teacher working with the other classes, and therefore have the advantages of fore learning or having their learning reinforced. Many of the younger pupils benefit from listening to the teacher working with the older children, exposing them to new challenges. Older children get constant reinforcement of what they have learned in previous year(s), which assists greatly with aiding pupils with learning difficulties.



ADVANTAGES OF A MULTI-CLASS SETTING

- In addition, children find their own level easier in a multi-grade class – less likely to feel different than in a single age, ‘single-ability’ class.
- **NEW CURRICULUM** - The new curriculum introduced the concept of ‘differentiated learning’, which means that whether the teacher has a single or multi-grade classroom makes no difference, each pupil is on their own learning journey which is pitched at their appropriate learning level and style. The multi-grade classroom, by its very make up, is more receptive and suitable to the essential components of the ‘new curriculum’, i.e. child centred, activity based, discovery methods, group work, thematic approach, integrated curriculum etc.
- **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** - The multi-grade classroom is a natural extension from the child’s experience at home with multiple ages, needs and abilities. In Scoil San Eoin, we have a great community ethos with the older pupils assisting, teaching and caring for the younger pupils, both within the classroom and in the yard, similar to the relationship between older and younger siblings. It is also very apparent that children’s social skills mature earlier in multi-grade classes, due to a greater emphasis on self-responsibility and again the influence of the older pupils on the younger ones.
- **DISCIPLINE** - There are few, if any, discipline issues in Scoil San Eoin, on a weekly basis, with visitors to the school constantly commenting on the good behaviour, manners and attitude of all the pupils.



ADVANTAGES OF A MULTI-CLASS SETTING

- Within the classroom, co-operative discipline evolves through necessity as children learn personal and group responsibility from early on, and the variety in ages, demands that the older pupils model good behaviour and attitude to the younger ones and the younger pupils, prevent the older ones from losing focus, as they approach the end of their time in primary school
- **RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHER** - In a multi-grade class the teacher is likely to teach a child for more than two years. This, generally, allows the teacher to get to know the child well and have a greater impact on affecting what the child learns. The high turnover of teachers to children in a single grade class discriminates against the teacher ever getting to know a child beyond a superficial level. If one accepts the correlation between how much, the knowing of a child's experience, needs and ability affects the quality of teaching/learning, then the multi-grade classroom has a distinct advantage in this area.

RELIGION



Scoil San Eoin is a Catholic School, under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin. We are committed to the teaching of religious education, which invites students to grow into a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, through prayer, formal instruction through the Grow in Love programme, and preparation for Sacraments. Pupils are taught to be respectful of difference, have respect for the good of others and see positivity in diversity and difference. Thanks to the changes occurring in the religion curriculum, religious education includes the teaching of the main aspects of other religious denominations. This enables the pupils to be more knowledgeable and appreciative of other religions both in Ireland and around the world.

Throughout the years in Scoil San Eoin, we have taught pupils of several different denominations and also those that chose not to practise religion. In these circumstances, we endeavour to accommodate the needs of each individual family to the best of our ability.

- ❖ Some parents wish their child to take part in all religious instruction, even preparation for sacraments, while not actually making their Holy Communion or Confirmation.
- ❖ Some wish their child to take part in some of the instruction, and we are happy to accommodate their needs where possible, with the resources that are available to us.
- ❖ There are some pupils whose parents do not wish them to take part in any formal religious instruction. We are happy to accommodate this to the best of our ability and with the resources that are available to us.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

A Code of Behaviour was developed in Scoil San Eoin in accordance with the guidelines 'Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools' (NEWB 2008). It also conforms with legislation as required by Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act (2000). The schools Anti-Bullying, Child Protection and Homework policies are documents which are linked with the Code of Behaviour and all stem from the Ethos of the school. This code applies not only on school grounds but also at any school related activity e.g. swimming, school tours, sports activities, class trips etc. Our Code of Behaviour is reinforced by a system of rewards, and provision for sanctions where necessary using a **Traffic Lights System**. Through a high level of co-operation within the whole school community, we aim to create a positive atmosphere in relation to pupil behaviour.

New parents/guardians will receive a copy of the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy at the beginning of the school year and will be expected to familiarise themselves with the school rules, expectations, rewards and sanctions with the school. They then sign a slip to indicate their agreement to both documents, and return it to the office where it will remain on file.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Good relationships need to be at the heart of everything in school if effective teaching and learning are to take place.

Roisin Úi Fhearraigh

Since September 2016 Restorative Practice has been introduced on a phased basis into Scoil San Eoin. This is following on from staff CPD in the area the previous year. Restorative Practice is a way of looking at, and dealing with, incidents of negative or challenging behaviour within the school. It teaches pupils a new mind-set, and how to look at, and deal with, negative situations in a new way. It also allows staff members to initiate discussion on the incident through circle time, rather than handing down sanctions, straight away.

“Restorative Practices are a framework for building community and for responding to challenging behaviour through authentic dialogue, coming to understanding, and making things right”

Teaching Restorative Practices with Classroom Circles

The aim of Restorative Practice in Scoil San Eoin, is that it will be used in conjunction with our current Code of Behaviour. It can be utilised on a needs basis, when an incident occurs and/or during SPHE time. It is important to the staff that Restorative Practice becomes more than just a means of dealing with issues between pupils or with pupils and staff, but more a different way of thinking for the pupils and staff on a daily basis.

We encourage the concept of RP to be utilised and introduced by parents/guardians in the home also.





Below are the 5 questions used in Restorative Practice:

1 – What happened?

2 – What were you thinking/feeling at the time?

3 – Who has been affected by this?

4 – What are you thinking/feeling now?

5 – What do you need/need to do to put things right?

Schools in which RP is adopted:

- Are happier and safer schools
- Have mutually respectful relationships
 - Have less stress for staff
- Have more effective teaching and learning
 - Have reduced exclusion
 - Have raised attendance

BOOKS



A book rental scheme is in operation in Scoil San Eoin. The scheme provides textbooks across all curricular areas where possible, leaving only workbooks, for parents/guardians to buy. These books were purchased by the school, to be used by the pupils for the near future, unless there are changes to the booklist. Therefore, we urge both pupils and parents/guardians to be vigilant regarding the care of all books in both school and home. The care of all materials, personal and those belonging to the school and others, is stressed and encouraged on an ongoing basis.

HOMEWORK



Homework is regarded as an important part of a continuous learning process in Scoil San Eoin for the following reasons:

- Consolidation of school work.
- An opportunity to develop independent work.
- Enables parents/guardians to observe their child in a working situation and keep informed as to what type of work is being undertaken at that time.

If for any reason a child does not do their homework, or if homework is not completed on the actual evening, teachers may require it to be done later. We ask parents/guardians to write an explanatory note in their homework journal. Journals are signed by parents/guardians or the supervising adult when it has been completed. Our homework policy is available to view in the office.

UNIFORM

In September 2012 a school uniform was introduced into Scoil San Eoin. This consists of a red crested jumper (available to purchase from the office), red polo-shirt and navy tracksuit, trousers, skirt or pinafore. Pupils can wear black or dark runners or shoes. With the exception of stud earrings and watches, all other jewellery is prohibited for health and safety reasons.

HEALTHY EATING



In line with our Healthy Eating Policy, pupils are not to bring fizzy drinks, sweets, chewing gum, chocolate or crisps to school. Pupils are permitted to bring a small treat on Fridays, however fizzy drinks and chewing gum are prohibited. Pupils will be informed of any occasion when they are allowed a treat, i.e. school trips. We recommend that lunches be varied and include fruit. Also, younger pupils must be able to physically manage their lunch, i.e. able to open yogurt pots etc. and eat their lunch within a reasonable time frame. As Scoil San Eoin is a Green School, pupils must use a reusable lunch box and reusable drinks bottle and avoid the use of tinfoil or Clingfilm. We discourage hot drinks for Health and Safety reasons. They are not permitted at any time in the junior classroom. At end of term parties, pupils are permitted to bring in small quantities of treats but homemade produce is preferable.

All parents/guardians will be notified if there is a pupil with an allergy and may be asked not to send certain foods e.g. nuts into school as part of their child's lunch.



CONTACT DETAILS

Parents/guardians must supply the school with their up to date addresses and phone numbers, contact numbers for child minders, and the name of another person in the event of parents/guardians not being available. It is essential that people listed are available to respond to contact by the school. At the start of each school year parents/guardians are asked to complete a new form. If any of these details change during the school year it is imperative that the school office is notified. A copy of all contacts is kept in the school office with each teacher receiving a copy relative to their class.



TIMETABLE, PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE

TIMETABLE: The school is open to receive pupils from 9.10am each morning. Classes begin at 9.20am, finish for infants at 2.00pm and for all other pupils at 3pm. Please remember that supervision is not provided for pupils on school grounds prior to school opening time so we would encourage parents/guardians to not drop their child off before 9.10am. Siblings of pupils should be supervised at all times as they are not covered by our insurance policy.

PUNCTUALITY: We encourage our pupils to attend school regularly and punctually and this is monitored by class teachers. A late book is in operation and must be signed by the parent/guardian of any child who arrives later than 9.20am.

ATTENDANCE: As part of our strategy to maintain good attendance levels, we monitor this on a weekly basis. If a child misses some school, it is important that the parent/guardian informs us in writing as to why, in their homework journal, or, by letter in the case of Junior/Senior Infants. An Attendance Policy was drafted in 2015, and is available to be viewed from the school office.



NEWB: The National Education & Welfare Board monitors the attendance of pupils in school by checking the roll books on a term by term basis. We must report the number of days missed by a child (whether they have been explained or not). **This is a legal requirement of the NEWB.** If a child misses ten or more days and the absences are unexplained we will invite the parent/guardian to meet with us about the child's attendance. As a matter of school policy, we will inform all parents/guardians when their child reaches ten and then fifteen or more days of absence in the school year. If the number exceeds twenty, then they may receive a visit or letter from this board. They will request copies of any records explaining the absences, which we keep on file. They will then decide if the matter needs to be processed further.

Leaving Early: If a child is leaving school early, a signing out book is in operation, which **must** be signed by a parent/guardian before taking the child from the premises.

HEALTH & SAFETY



A Health and Safety Policy is in place in Scoil San Eoin. This includes a plan for fire drills, which will be carried out, on a regular basis.

Some general Health and Safety rules include:

- Pupils must walk quietly from one area of the school to another.
- They are encouraged to respect others and their property.
- Swinging on chairs is actively discouraged.
- They must pass and not throw an item to another pupil.
- At break times, children must get permission of the teacher on duty to go back inside, who will then open the door for them.



WET BREAKS: A “wet break” system has been devised to alleviate any health and safety issues, which may arise during these times. Pupils will be assigned activity stations either in the GP room or their classrooms. This system also consolidates learning, encourages leadership and develops co-operation and communication between all class levels.



ILLNESS AND MEDICATION

If a child has a particular medical or allergic condition it is imperative that the school is informed by filling out the Administration of Medicines form contained in the Enrolment booklet. Parents/guardians must also keep the school informed of any changes in a child’s condition/medication. First Aid is given by an adult in the school in the case of a minor injury. In the event of a head injury or any other serious injury the school will contact the parent immediately.



PERSONAL PROPERTY

If a pupil wishes to bring a kindle to school for the purpose of reading, parents must advise us, in writing, of their permission. If the pupil uses this device for any other purpose it will be confiscated and the pupil will no longer be allowed to bring it to school.

Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school. However, whilst we would discourage it, on the occasion of a school trip, if a parent requires their child to be in possession of their phone they must advise us in writing. The phone is the sole responsibility of the pupil in this instance.

All other personal items, i.e. cameras, money etc. are the responsibility of the pupil at all times whilst in school or on school trips



COMMUNICATION

Good communication is a key aspect of ensuring all school community members within the school, have a positive and productive experience.

We strive for open, positive and meaningful communication in everything we do. The Scoil San Eoin good communication basics are:

We are always respectful, polite and honest.

We strive to ensure good communication between parents and staff members on a regular basis throughout the year through formal (PT meetings, end of year reports, IP meetings etc.) and informal (scheduled PT meetings, emails, website etc.)

However, we ask that parents respect that this is also a place of work and that unscheduled interruptions, where avoidable, are detrimental to both the teaching and learning within the school, upsetting to the daily timetable, and cause issues with supervision for pupils. We ask that parents utilise the correct channels of communication at all times and be respectful of all staff members.

School Website: The school website (www.scoilsaneoin.ie) has been a valuable addition to our means of communication and is a fantastic way for all parents and community members to ensure that they are up to date on all the exciting happenings within the school, as well as being informed of upcoming dates and information on events.

We urge all new parents to form a habit of checking the school website regularly.

VISITORS



All visitors to the school must enter through the front door. A buzzer system is in place to connect with the office or other classrooms. No visitors are permitted to enter the school through the rear door as this is for pupil/staff use and for fire safety only. All volunteering parents or external visitors must sign in and out in the appropriate book.

POLICIES



In line with Department of Education guidelines, policies are being developed and implemented on an ongoing basis in Scoil San Eoin.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In Scoil San Eoin we have a holistic approach to education. We endeavour to develop and nurture all aspects of the child's learning and expose pupils to as many aspects of learning as possible. We take part in a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities such as those listed below.

- Christmas Concerts
- Music Generation
- Swimming/Rugby/GAA/Dance/Gymnastics
- Mobile Library
- Greenschool
- School Tours and Outings.
- Visitors i.e. Storytellers
- Involvement with Aquarium Project-Bray Education Centre

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- ICT Lessons
- Sacraments
- Tinwhistle
- BBKR/Community Games
- Skiphop Workshop
- Chess
- Taekwondo
- Language classes
- Ukulele
- Drum Workshop
- Maths Week/Seachtain na Gaeilge/Science Week/
Engineers Week/Friendship Week
- Setanta/Scholastic Book Fairs
- World Book Day
- An Post Competition
- Blue Star Programme
- Junior Entrepreneur Programme



SCOIL SAN EOIN – A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

I myself attended a large Primary School with classes of 25 + children of the same age where different age groups did not mix. I therefore spent my primary years not knowing anyone in the older classes and actually at times being afraid of them. I was amazed at the respect and care shown between the pupils of different ages in Scoil San Eoin and in my opinion this is one of the huge benefits of a multi class room setting.

Stephen Kinsella
Dad of Conor (Past Pupil)



SCOIL SAN EOIN – A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

There is a great sense of community in Scoil San Eoin. If someone is running late or maybe one of their children is sick, there are always other parents happy to give their child a lift home. It's easy to help one another, because everyone lives quite close to the school. This is something really special, and it's important to me that my children know and are friends with many of the other pupils, as they live in and around Redcross. Through the children attending this school, it really makes them and the whole family, feel like they are a part of a wider community.

Laura
Mum of
Brian in Fourth Class



SCOIL SAN EOIN – A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Education is very important to me and I'm delighted that the standard of teaching in Scoil San Eoin matches, and indeed outdoes, many other schools in terms of academic achievement, with students going on to do very well in their further education. The school manages to combine this with a huge amount of fun and unusual extra-curricular activities from skipping to art! It's a fantastic school and I'm happy with my decision to send my children there. Jill – Mum of Patrick in Fifth Class



For any further queries on our school or to get a child's enrolment pack for completion, please call the school office on 0404-41727 or contact by email on schoolofficeredcross@gmail.com