

SCOIL SAN

EON

REDCROSS

CO WICKLOW

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INFORMATION BOOKLET

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STAFF MEMBERS

PRINCIPAL: LINDA GREENE

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: ANN MARIE NUZUM

3RD-6TH CLASS TEACHER: LINDA GREENE

JUN INF-2ND CLASS: ANN MARIE NUZUM

RESOURCE/LEARNING SUPPORT:SUSIE GRIFFITHS
AISLING DEPAOR

SECRETARY: CIARA RUANE

CLEANER: BERNIE HUGHES

CARETAKER: TIMMY BYRNE

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 practises which are carried out in the school on a daily, weekly and yearly basis. We 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 God, other people and the environment. 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 instill, 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.

HISTORY

Scoil San Eoin N.S. is a two teacher school, situated in Redcross in Avoca Parish, the biggest parish geographically in the Archdiocese of Dublin. 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. The site was donated by the Williams family.

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 and upgraded. 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.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Without an active and enthusiastic Board of Management and Parents Association, Scoil San Eoin would not be improving and thriving as it is.

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. The current Board came into being on 1st December, 2015 (along with all other primary schools). Members are listed at the back of this booklet. The term of office of the Board shall be four years.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION: The purpose of the P.A. 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 Association?

- 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.

- 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.

What is **NOT** the role of the Parents Association?

- To get involved in individual complaints.
- Day to day running of the school.
- Curriculum.
- Appointment of teachers.
- Carrying out activities without consultation with Principal and/or Board of Management.

If you wish to volunteer for school events, or if you have suggestions/ comments on the working of the P.A. please contact any member of the P.A. or email parentsredcross@gmail.com.

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 as a result 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. Also, 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 they come in contact with. 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 Alive-O programme and preparation for Sacraments. Pupils are also 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 does, and will further in the future, include 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.

1. Some parents wish their child to take part in all religious instruction, even preparation for sacraments, while not making their Holy Communion or Confirmation.
2. 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.
3. There are also some pupils whose parents do not wish them to take part in any formal religious instruction. We accommodate this to the best of our ability, meaning that up until now, these children have remained in the classroom, working on other areas of the curriculum during religious instruction. However, in the coming years we will be endeavouring, where possible, to run workshops supervised by volunteer parents at these times, such as art and crafts or reading groups.

As outlined in our Ethos Statement, we endeavour to instill and nurture a spirit of tolerance, respect and interest in other beliefs and religions, and to ensure a holistic education is provided to prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning, regardless of religious denomination or beliefs.

BOOKS

A book rental scheme is in operation in Scoil San Eoin. The scheme provides text books across all curricular areas where possible, leaving only workbooks, for parents/guardians to buy. The cost of the book rental scheme, along with the requisite money, is payable

at the beginning of the school year. These books have been purchased by the school to be used by the pupils for the foreseeable 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. If a book is not returned at the end of the year in the same condition as it was received we will ask parents/guardians to reimburse the school for the cost of a replacement book. The care of all materials, personal and those belonging to the school and others is stressed and encouraged on an ongoing basis. Your help in encouraging your child to care for these books would be greatly appreciated.

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 must wear plain white or dark runners or shoes. Pupils must also have indoor shoes/slippers to wear from the start of the year. With the exception of stud earrings and watches, all other jewellery is prohibited for health and safety reasons.

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 your child does not do their homework, or if homework is not completed on the actual evening, teachers may require it to be done later. Please write an explanatory note in their homework journal, as we do not accept a verbal excuse from any pupil about this. 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 and we encourage parents/guardians to familiarise themselves with this document.

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.

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.

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 be kept on file.

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 in the office 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 your child misses some school, it is important to inform 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 your child (whether they have been explained or not). **This is a legal requirement of the NEWB.** If your child misses ten or more days and the absences are unexplained we will be inviting you to meet with us about your 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 you 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. Attendance is monitored by Ms. Nuzum who will refer to Ms. Greene where necessary.

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 under development in Scoil San Eoin and will be available for parents/guardians to view from the office. This will also include 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 not wander indoors without prior permission of the teacher on duty.

WET BREAKS: As there is no indoor hall in Scoil San Eoin, a “wet break” system has been devised to alleviate any health and safety issues which may arise during these times. This system also consolidates learning, encourages leadership and develops co-operation and communication between all class levels.

ILLNESS AND MEDICATION

If your child has a particular medical or allergic condition it is imperative that you let us know by filling out the Administration of Medicines form contained in the Enrolment booklet. You must also keep the school informed of any changes in your 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.

VISITORS OR PARENTS/GUARDIANS MEETINGS & DISCUSSIONS

All parents/guardians or visitors to the school must make themselves known to the secretary in the office on arrival. No parent/guardian or visitor is permitted to enter or disrupt either classroom during school time without a prior appointment. Whilst we welcome communication between parents/guardians and teachers we would ask that an appointment is made through the secretary, for after school. This will ensure minimum disruption to the timetable and also to teachers' preparation time before school begins.

POLICIES

In line with Department of Education guidelines, policies are being developed and implemented on an ongoing basis in Scoil San Eoin. These policies can be viewed by parents/guardians in the office, on request.

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. Therefore in conjunction with the curriculum we take part in a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities such as those listed below.

- School Bank
- 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
- ICT Lessons
- Sacraments
- Credit Union Quiz
- Tinwhistle
- BBKR/Community Games
- Skiphop
- 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

SCOIL SAN EOIN

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Before our daughter started school I checked out all the schools in the area. A number of things swayed me towards Scoil San Eoin: the small school, the excellent academic standard and the progressive, enthusiastic teachers. However, what really won me over was the long list of extra activities the school offered such as Music (Singing, Tin whistle, Drum workshops) Dance classes, Christmas concerts, MS Readathon, and Sports - GAA, Rugby, Gymnastics and Swimming to name a few. The weekly School Bank helps the children learn about saving, and the fortnightly book borrowing from the mobile library instils a joy of reading. Now that Aisling has started in Scoil San Eoin, I am also very impressed with how many parents are involved, not just in the PA but in helping in the school in lots of ways, such as the weekly one to one paired reading, arts and crafts, school bank and mobile library. There is a general feeling amongst parents that everyone is willing to get involved and give up their time to benefit the children.

Karen Tiernan, mother of Aisling in Senior Infants

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 Molly in 5th class & Conor in First Class

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 Daniel in 2nd class, Cian in Senior
Infants and Brian in Junior Infants

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 Ella 3rd Class and Patrick in Junior Infants

When choosing a school for my children, what it came down to for me was size. I loved the concept of the Educate Together schools: lots of parental volunteering and treating each child as an individual, learning at their own pace, embracing diversity. However I think that when a school gets really big it becomes more difficult to hang on to that family feeling. So I came to believe that all those things that I valued were really more dependent on the size, rather than the patronage of the school. Another big issue for me was Religion, as my children won't be making First Communion or Confirmation. I spoke to the teachers about the way children of different denominations or religions would be accommodated in the school, and how First Communion and Confirmation are handled. I came away really impressed with their progressive approach. The teachers have great respect for the differing beliefs of parents in school and diversity among the children is valued. This school fosters tolerance and a love of learning.

Shannon
Mum of Kyle (2nd Class) and Summer
(Senior Infants)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

CHAIRPERSON:	Henry Fleming
PRINCIPAL/SECRETARY:	Linda Greene
TREASURER/PARENTS REP:	John Cleary
PARENTS REP:	Martina Wynne
STAFF REP:	Ann Marie Nuzum
PATRON REPRESENTATIVE:	Fr. Diarmuid Byrne
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE:	Pauline Flannery

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRPERSON:	Shannon O'Halloran
SECRETARY:	Nicole Keogh
TREASURER:	Yvonne Kenny
MEMBERS:	Michelle Phipps Linda Browne Caroline Mooney

