

Plean Scoile 2023-2024



Cork Educate Together National School is a Multi-Denominational School in the centre of Cork City. It is an equality-based, co-educational, democratically-run and child-centred primary school. It is a state-funded national school funded by the Department of Education and Skills and operates in accordance with their Rules for Primary Schools. It is a member of Educate Together and therefore adheres to and supports its ethos. Cork Educate Together N.S. is governed by an independent patron; The Executive Committee.

Mission Statement

Cork Educate Together N.S. is diverse and inclusive.

We foster a creative, joyful environment in which all can belong, learn and thrive.

We support each other to be kind, respectful and responsible members of our community.

Our vision

We Learn Together to Live Together

The Educate Together motto correctly emphasises the importance of inclusion and how education creates a culture of tolerance and equality; one where individual growth is not measured solely in academic terms but in their moral, social and spiritual development. We provide a learning environment where our students grow to understand, evaluate and appreciate different perspectives.

In Cork Educate Together N.S. we believe education is what moulds an individual, instills values, teaches tolerance, creates community and promotes diversity and fairness. Appreciation of diversity and inclusion characterises our school, as well as our tolerant and vibrant approach to learning.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

In Cork Educate Together N.S. quality teaching and learning takes place and children are content, curious and eager to participate. It is imperative that our guiding vision is one where we reach a shared consensus on goals and expectations for our school as a learning community. We ensure clear communication with the wider school community through appropriate channels such as our website, Aladdin and a clear open-door policy. The high expectations we set for all of our pupils and staff receives equally high levels of support from our school community.

In Cork Educate Together N.S. we embrace the participation and contribution of parents, students, staff and the wider community. The promotion of positive relationships and

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collaboration is key to our ethos that is diverse, inclusive, promotes equality, supports learning, and where all members of our community feel safe, secure, valued and respected.

School Details:

Name: Cork Educate Together National School
Address: Grattan Street, Cork City. T12NW65
Roll Number: 19906G
Principal: Maura O’Riordan
Phone Number: 021 4275640
Website: www.corkeducatetogether.ie
Email: info@corkeducatetogether.ie
Cigire: Kay Foley

School start/end times are as follows:

Start Time:	End Time:
8.50 am	1.30 pm/2.30 pm

History

The Cork Educate Together N.S. (formerly Cork School Project N.S.) opened in 1987. It was established by parental action in response to their changing needs in an increasingly pluralist society. Cork Educate Together has an independent patronage The Executive but is affiliated with Educate Together. The school has an administrative principal, eight classroom teachers, six Support Teachers, 5 Additional Needs Assistants, Secretary and Caretaker.

School Policies

Relevant school policies are available on our website. Policies change over time.

By sending their child to this school, Parents/Guardians agree to support and abide by all school policies.

School Day

Cork Educate Together N.S. opens to receive pupils at 8:35am. Children should arrive between 8.35am and 8.50 am in order to start lessons promptly. We like to ensure that each child gets as much as they can from the school day. In order to do this, it is essential that children are punctual on a daily basis. The school provides supervision of pupils in school from 8.35am – 1.30pm for Junior and Senior Infants and from 8.35am – 2.30 pm for First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class.

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Junior and Senior Infants finish school at 1:30pm. For safety reasons, Junior and Senior Infants are collected from the yard at 1:30pm. For children's sense of security, it is important that they know in advance who will collect them and that they are collected promptly. Staff release children directly to the parent/guardian. All other classes finish at 2.30pm.

The inside gate open at 1:30 and 2:30 for collection. Please vacate the yard promptly at 1:30pm and 2:30pm. The inside gate remains closed outside of these times for security reasons. Classes and Afterschool require access to the yard between 1:30 and 2:30pm.

Neither staff nor Board of Management can accept responsibility for any child before 8.35am or after 2.30pm. No child should be on the premises unsupervised at any time.

Yard

There are two play breaks each day, at which time, weather-permitting, the children go outside to play. If it is a wet or particularly windy day, the children play indoors.

We pay particular attention to yard play. Children are helped to find friends and are encouraged to play suitable games.

Yard Times:

J Infants/S Infants/ First/Second:	10:50-11:00	12:15-12:40
Third/Fourth/Fifth/Sixth:	11:05-11:15	12:45-1:10

Staffing - September 2023

Principal: Maura O'Riordan

Deputy Principal: Katie Duggan

Assistant Principal: Katie Hickson

Assistant Principal: Aisling Kennedy

Assistant Principal: Sinéad Farrell

Class Teachers:

Junior Infants: Emma Fitzpatrick

Senior Infants: Grainne Cassin

First Class: Marguerite O' Flaherty

Second Class: Lia Doolan

Third Class: Celine MacCarthy

Fourth Class: John McCarthy

Fifth Class: Aisling Kennedy

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Sixth Class: Sinéad Farrell

Support Teachers

Katie Hickson

Elizabeth Kenny

Katie Duggan

Louise Thornhill

Nicola Cleary/ Shelley Tuohy (Jobshare)

Morgan Ó Mathuna

Additional Needs Assistants/ ANA

Ena Treaty

Jonathan Knowles

Louise O'Neill

Sharon O'Leary

Yuki Hatano

Secretary: Sandra O'Neill/Noeleen Munroe

Caretaker: Ger Lynch

Board of Management

Chairperson: Claire Coleman, co-opted from the wider community.

Treasurer: John O'Brien, elected from parent body.

Principal: Maura O'Riordan

Teacher: Aisling Kennedy

Member: Lee Doherty, elected from parent body on behalf of the Patron.

Member: Stephen Mc Govern, elected from parent body on behalf of the Patron.

Member: Anne Boddaert, co-opted from the wider community.

PTA

Chairperson: Jennifer Conradie

Treasurer: Antonio Faldetta

Secretary: Zara O'Callaghan

Afterschool Class Co-ordinator: Barbara Siller

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Class Parent/Guardian Reps 23/24

Heléne Arzic –Junior Infants

Carolyn Treacy – Senior Infants

Tracey Ryan – First Class

Niamh McCullagh – 2nd Class

Anne Foley – 3rd Class

Caroline O’Connor – 4th Class

Nora Hennessy – 5th Class

Margaret O’Keefe - 6th Class

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Katherine Hartford

Treasurer: Katherine McClatchie

Secretary: Telmo Carlos

Teacher: Sinead Farrell

Member: Sabine Kriebel

Member: Jesús Ramirez

Member: Orla Murphy

Member: Sharon Sheahan

School Self Evaluation and Priorities for 2023/2024

Primary Language Curriculum: Oral Language/Teanga ó Bhéal

Strategies to develop Teanga ó Bhéal

1. Hot Seat/Hot Spot: This will provide a platform to develop and expand Oral Language/Teanga ó Bhéal skills. A spiral approach to develop competencies and confidence will be developed throughout the school.
2. Pop up Café as Gaeilge for staff and parents. Times and dates (TBC).
3. Frasaí Choicísíúila. These will be recorded by children fortnightly posted on Aladdin/website.
4. Cluichí as Gaeilge: Children will play games as part of Friday Assembly.
5. Gníomhaíochtaí Míósúila: Gaeilge activities spread throughout the year not just seachtain na Gaeilge.

DEAS

Drop Everything and Spell: 3rd -6th Class 5 Minute Daily Spelling and Morphology

Punctuality

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Arriving to school on time sets your child up for a positive school day. Children arriving regularly late to school causes significant disruption to teaching and learning for all.

Please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible if you are struggling to get your child to school on time and require support or advice.

The following approach will be followed to support punctuality.

1. 10 days late: A letter will be sent to inform parents/guardians of the amount of teaching and learning time lost. Parents will be invited to contact the school should they need support with regard to punctuality.
2. 15 days Late: Parents/guardians will receive a phone call from the principal to discuss punctuality, amount of teaching and learning time lost and to offer support with regard to punctuality.
3. 20 days Late: Parents/guardians will be invited to meet with the principal to discuss punctuality, amount of teaching and learning time lost and offer support with regard to punctuality.
4. 25 days Late: Parents/guardians will be invited to meet with the Principal and Chairperson of the Board of Management to discuss the impact being regularly late is having on their child and the disruption to the teaching and learning for all.

For health and Safety reasons the inside gate is closed at 8:50am. If you arrive to school after 8:50am please ensure you escort your child to the inside gate and wait with them until they are buzzed in. The Board of management accepts no responsibility for children left unaccompanied outside the school gate after 8:50am.

Attendance

Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to improved academic performance, development of social and emotional skills and building and maintaining positive relationships. The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) has access to all attendance information for each pupil and a child is missing school for more than 20 days without good reason, the principal is obliged to make a referral to the EWO.

The following approach will be followed to support attendance.

1. 10 days absent: Letter to be sent from school to parents/guardians informing them of same.
2. 15 Days absent: Parents/guardians will receive a phone call from principal to discuss attendance and offer support if needed.
3. 20 days absent: Parents/guardians will be invited to meet with the principal to discuss attendance prior to a referral to the Education Welfare Officer.

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Attendance Notes should be completed on Aladdin when it is known in advance that a child is going to be late, collected early or absent.

Nurture Provision Pilot

The Nurture Room focuses on social, emotional and behavioural development in a group context.

It is based on 6 principles:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally.
2. The classroom offers a safe base.
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.
4. Language is a vital means of communication.
5. All behaviour is communication.
6. The importance of transitions in children's lives.

Boxall Profiles are used to identify strengths and areas in need of development. They are also used to monitor progress and to identify targets.

We will begin our pilot with 3 variations of the model:

1. Gentle Start Group- children come to the Nurture Room on entry to school from 8.40am to facilitate a gentle and predictable start to their day.
2. Nurture Provision- the majority of children identified as meeting the criteria for Nurture Provision will engage with this format.
3. Lunch Buddies- elements of Nurture incorporated with the eating of lunch in a small group to facilitate social development in particular. It also offers a quiet space for children who do not enjoy the noise and activity levels of the classroom at lunchtime. We wish to facilitate as many children as possible to access this form of provision in the initial phase– we are aiming to operate a shorter version of the traditional Nurture groups in the pilot period for review at the mid-term break.

Each session will be arranged around a series of routines that are predictable and consistent. We aim to review the pilot before the midterm break.

School therapy Dog

Shay is our school therapy puppy in training with My Canine Companion.

Shay will be based initially in the nurture room with his 1st handler with the intention of developing a whole school presence as his training progresses. Second, third and possibly fourth handlers will be trained to facilitate this in due course.

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Morning Routine

Music: Music will play in the yard to welcome the children to school and to create a calm relaxed environment. Each Class will develop a play list.

Birthday Bells: Children ring the school bell on the morning of their birthday and the whole school sing Happy Birthday to them. Children whose birthday falls on a Saturday will ring the bell on Friday, children whose birthday falls on a Sunday will ring the bell on Monday.

Wake Up Shake Up: Children will complete Brain Gym activities on the yard prior to going to class. These exercises are proven to improve concentration, focus, and other cognitive functions.

Buddy System: Fifth Class will buddy up with Junior infants and remain buddies through Senior Infants and Sixth Class.

Friday Assembly: Whole school assembly takes place weekly; a space where the children and staff come together to explore themes based on our monthly Core Value, sing together and celebrate individual and school achievements.

Month	Core Value
September	Kindness
October	Respect
November	Empathy
December	Happiness
January	Resilience
February	Love
March	Honesty
April	Responsibility
May	Trust
June	Integrity

Core Value Links

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To raise awareness of the monthly Core Value we have introduced **We were caught being.....** links

Children who were observed being kind in September, Respectful in October etc will add a link. This will give a visual representation to the Core Values in practice and alive day to day. We would like to extend this to home also. Children who have been caught being.... Can add a link when they come into school.

VIP (Values in Practice) Certificates

Children will be celebrated and affirmed as valuable members of our school during the week of their birthday at Friday Assembly. Children whose birthday falls in July will be celebrated in June and children's whose birthday fall in August will be celebrated in September.

Curriculum

We implement the primary curriculum set by the Department of Education. It aims to provide a broad learning experience and encourages a rich variety of approaches to teaching and learning; that cater for the different needs and abilities of individual children. The curriculum is designed to nurture the child in all dimensions-cognitive, imaginative, aesthetic, physical, social, emotional, spiritual and moral. This balanced curriculum brings to life our students' interests, skills, talents and abilities.

The Curriculum includes Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education) Music, Drama, Art and Craft, SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education) Physical Education and Learn Together Programme.

In every area of the curriculum, the underlying aims are two-fold:

1. The full and harmonious development of the potential of each child.
2. The promotion of cultural enrichment. Attitudes of self-confidence, self-awareness and self-respect are encouraged.

Mutual regard for each other and for each other's viewpoints should permeate the wide range of activities that are carried out in our school.

Ethical Education

Ethical Education is a key component of the Educate Together Model. The Learn Together curriculum seeks to offer our students the opportunity to meaningfully and critically reflect upon

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the world around them. Ethical education focuses on questions of equality, justice, sustainability and active citizenship.

Cookery Corner

Each class will have an opportunity to cook together at least four times a year.

- To develop the basic life skill of cooking: chopping, stirring.
- Teaches life skills such as measuring and reading recipes.
- Encourage children to eat a healthy balanced diet.
- Cooking is a great bonding experience for students and staff.

Ingredients are sponsored by the PTA.

Fruit and Veg

Fruit and vegetables will be prepared by children and served to children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Children are encouraged to taste and eat a wide variety of fruit and vegetables this year. Children will learn about the health benefits of including fruit and vegetables in their diet. Parents are encouraged to include the weekly fruit/veg in their children's lunch the following week in line with our Healthy Eating Policy. Fruit and Veg are sponsored by the PTA.

Library

Each class will visit the library a number of times during the year to develop the habit of reading and using the wonderful resource on our doorstep.

Choir

Children from Third Class to Sixth Class come together every Tuesday Morning 9:00-9:45 to sing. Facilitated by Peter Stobbart, St Finbarr's Cathedral.

Music Group

Children from Third Class to Sixth Class come together every Wednesday 1:30-2:30, facilitated by, Katie Hickson, Sinéad Farrell, John McCarthy.

GAA Football

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GAA training takes place on Thursday afternoons in the Cricket club. The season will run from September through to the October Midterm break and then we will start up again after the Easter holidays. A girls' team and boys' team will take part in the Sciath na Scol Football competition. Gumshields are mandatory.

Rugby

Children from 5th and 6th Class take part in Fundamental Movement skills facilitated by Munster Rugby.

Aquatics

1st Class to 6th Class complete 5 sessions of swimming during the year. Swimming is part of the curriculum and participation is mandatory.

Gymnastics

All children will complete 6 sessions of gymnastics during the year.

After School Service is provide by:

On site-Sherpa Kids

Off Site (Haven centre) -Bunús

Belief Systems per Class

Juniors Infants: Buddhism/Christianity

Senior Infants: Islam/Sikhism

First Class: Judaism/Hinduism

Second Class: Christianity/Buddhism

Third Class: Janism/Taoism/Shinto/

Fourth Class: Islam/Sikhism/Bahai

Fifth Class: Judaism/Hinduism/Shinto

Sixth Class: Christianity/Janism/Taoism/Bahai

Lúnasa/Imbolg/St. Bridget/Summer and Winter Solstice/Bealtaine/Samhain

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Calendar Of Events

Wellness Week: September 11th

Lord's Mayor Visit. October 5th

Maths Week: October 14th-22nd

Halloween Walk: Friday October 27th

Science Week: November 12th -19th

Parent Teacher Meetings: November 22nd and 23rd

Multi-cultural Week: December 4th -December 8th

Sustainability Week: January 22nd -26th

Seachain na Gaeilge: March 1st -17th

World Book Day: March 7th

Oíche Bingo agus Céilí: March 13th

Easter Egg Hunt: TBC

New Junior Infants Welcome Day May (TBC)

Active Week: June 17th -21st

Sports day: Thursday 20th

Visitors to the school

All visitors to the school should report to the office on arrival. If you need to drop in your child's lunch, bag or sports gear, please drop it into the office as this will ensure the least disruption for everyone.

Faith Formation

Faith formation does not take place during the school day at Cork Educate Together N.S. We do, however, allow use of a room for after-school faith formation classes organised by parents.

Curricular Focus:

PLC Whole School Approach to Writing Genres

Power Hour: Team Teaching Maths and Literacy/Early Intervention

Spelling: Spellings for Me 3rd to 6th Class

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Whole School approach to Gaeilge Teanga ó Bhéal

Handwriting: Junior Infants, Senior Infants & First Class. Mrs Murphy's Handwriting.

Music: Whole School: Dabledoo

Accessing the wider community – Share, library, art galleries, Fitzgerald's Park, Cricket Club, Active School initiative.

Wellbeing Committee – social skills groups, Wake Up! Shake Up!, yoga and meditation

Sustainable Education- Green Schools Committee/ School Garden

Introduction of Positive Notes/VIP Links/ VIP Certificates

JEP in 6th Class

History Project: 5th Class *The History of Cork Educate Together*

Digital learning; Ipad from Juns to 1st, HP Pro Book from 2nd-4th. Google Chromebooks for 5th and 6th

Aistear programme used in Junior and Senior Infants for thematic, playful learning.

School Traffic Warden:

Funding has been secured through a private entity from September to December. We hope that Cork City Council will find a permanent solution in the 2024 budget.

Road Safety-Pedestrian Crossing

This project has been put to tender. Awaiting on update re. start date

Additional Accommodation

Department of Education in consultation with The Franciscan Friary regarding leasing La Verna.

Policy Schedule 2023/2024

Annual Review Anti-Bullying Policy (October)

Annual Review Child Safeguarding Statement (October)

Career Break/Job Share Policy (Review)

Annual Review of Health Safety Statement 2023(November)

Annual Review ICT Acceptable Usage Policy (November)

Annual Review Admissions Policy Review (January)

Cosy Room Policy Review (November 2023)

SPHE Policy (February)

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ANA Policy (March)

Assessment (February)

SEN Policy Review (March)

Healthy Eating Policy (December)

Mobile Phone/Smart Watch (Policy)

Annual Code of Behaviour/Promoting Positive Behaviour/Managing Challenging Behaviour (May)

Primary Language Curriculum Plans (Gaeilge and English) (May)

Learn Together Curriculum Plans (May)

Wellbeing Policy (May 2023)

Policy Schedule Curricular Plans:

2024/2025

Maths

SESE

2025/2026

P.E.

Music

Drama

Art