



St. Patrick's National School, Drumcondra, D09XH52
Scoil Phadraig, Droim Conrach, Ath Cliath D09 XH52
Email: secretary@saintpats.ie Telephone: (01)8372714
Charity number:20116453

Subject: The Primary School Survey- Next steps

The Department of Education and Youth carried out a survey in the last school year to find out about the type of schools that parents/guardians prefer. Last June, we shared our school's survey results with you.

The 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

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

As part of the Board of Management's review, 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 the feedback, we will consider it carefully and then let you know about any decisions we make.

- The Parents' Association and Student Council have been asked to review the results and send feedback to the Board by the 5th of October 2026.
- We have also invited staff to review the results and provide feedback at their September staff meeting.
- Survey results have been published on the school website, and if members of the

wider school community wish to give feedback they can do so by completing the feedback form by Friday, 9th of October.

We have included some additional information at the end of this email that you may find useful.

Yours sincerely,
Chairperson and Principal

Further information on the Primary School Survey

The Department of Education and Youth carried out the Primary School Survey to find out what type of school parents and guardians prefer. These include:

- Co-educational or single-sex provision
- School ethos/patronage
- Language of instruction (English or Irish)

Over 200,000 parents/guardians took part. Each school has received results based on the views of parents with children in the school, or those who plan to enrol a child.

What happens if there is demand for change

If a school 'expresses an interest' in change the department will assign a dedicated point of contact to support the school throughout the process of considering and implementing a change in configuration. A range of additional supports will also be made available.

Co-educational schools

- About 90% of primary schools are co-educational. This means boys and girls are taught together in all classes.
- About 10% of schools are single-sex, meaning they teach only boys or only girls, in some or all classes.
- If a school wants to become co-educational, the Department of Education and Youth will consider this request through its Planning and Building Unit.
- When looking at these requests, the department will check things like whether there are enough school places for boys and girls in the area, and the timing of any changes would reflect this.

Multi-denominational schools

- About 95% of schools have a religious (denominational) ethos.
- About 5% of schools are multi-denominational. In a multi-denominational school, children learn about different religions and beliefs. These schools do not provide religious instruction during the school day.
- If a school wants to become multi-denominational the department will support the school to becoming a multi-denominational school.

- When a school changes to multi-denominational, most things in the school stay the same, for example the school remains open and operating from the same school building, and the department provides the same support, like grants, inspections, regulations, curriculum, and staff.

- A change of ethos to multi-denominational can take place all at once, or gradually, starting with younger classes over time.

Schools that teach through Irish (Gaelscoileanna)

- About 92% of schools teach through English
 - About 8% of schools teach through Irish
- Children in schools that provide education through Irish follow the same curriculum as those in other schools but are taught all subjects (except English and other languages) through Irish.
 - If a school wants to change and teach through Irish (gaelscoil), the department will support the school to transition to a school that teaches through Irish.

Read additional information at: **www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey**