



4 November 2025

Subject: Have Your Say - Primary School Survey

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are asking you as a parent or guardian of children who are not yet in primary school to **'Have Your Say'** about your child's future primary school. We are doing this through a short, confidential survey, which will take at most 5 minutes to complete. This is an important survey and is the first time that a survey of this scale is being run by the Department of Education and Youth. The results of the survey will help the department plan how we provide education at primary level.

How to do the survey

Click the link below to take part:

www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

It only takes 5 minutes!

For parents and guardians who for personal reasons are unable to complete an online survey, please contact the department for help at:

- schoolsurvey@education.gov.ie

You will need to know your Eircode to complete the survey. If you do not know your Eircode, you can find it here:

- www.eircode.ie/.

We will use your Eircode **only** for this survey and future school planning purposes.



Why take part?

School communities reflect the rich and diverse society we live in. We want to understand the preferences of parents and guardians about the primary schools which their children attend now or will attend in coming years.

What will I be asked?

We will ask you a small number of questions, including the following:

“Would you prefer your primary school to be a co-educational school or a single-sex school?”

Would you prefer your primary school to operate under a denominational (religious) patron or to operate under a multi-denominational (non-religious) patron?

Would you prefer your primary school to provide education primarily through the English language or through the Irish language?”

Further information is available here:

- www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

How will my information be used?

Your answers are confidential and will not be shared with anyone else. The answers from your school will help the department and your school to plan for the future.

Please note: The survey is not part of the school enrolment process. You should contact schools to enrol your child in the normal way.



What will happen with the results of the survey?

Initial high-level summary results (response rates) will be published in early 2026.

The results of the survey will help the department in planning education provision at primary level.

Who do I contact if I want to discuss special educational needs provision for my child(ren)?

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) was set up to improve the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs with particular emphasis on children. The NCSE local service is delivered through their national network of Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) who interact with parents and schools. The number of SENOs has increased from 65 to 120 with the aim of providing an improved level of service for parents and schools.

As part of the forward planning for special education provision, the NCSE aims to assist parents seeking a special class/school placement for their child/young person. Parents of children and young people seeking a special class or special school place should contact the NCSE and have regard to the annual process and timelines for notifying the NCSE. For example those seeking a special class or special school place for the 2026/2027 school year were asked to notify the NCSE by 1 October 2025.

NCSE contact information: www.ncse.ie/contact-the-ncse



Questions?

For more information, visit: www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

Don't miss your chance to have your say!

The survey will close on 16 December 2025.

Thank you for your time and valuable input.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Brown', is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Dermot Brown, Principal Officer,
Reconfiguration and Schools Property Management Section
Department of Education and Youth



More information about the Primary School Survey

What is the Primary School Survey?

The Primary School Survey asks parents, guardians, school staff and boards of management members to **'Have Your Say'** about your primary school. The Department of Education and Youth will use the results of the survey to plan how we provide education at primary level.

Who can do the survey?

- Parents and guardians of children who are not yet in primary school
- Parents and guardians of children in primary school
- Staff in primary schools
- Primary school board of management members

How do I do the survey?

Parents and guardians – Click the link below to take part:

www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

You will need your Eircode to do the survey. We will only use your Eircode for this survey. [Find your Eircode](#)

School staff and board of management members – Click the link below to take part:

www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey

You will need a PIN to do the survey. The department is sending this PIN to schools from 7 November 2025.



What will I be asked?

We will ask you a small number of questions, including the following:

“Co-education or single-sex school preference

Would you prefer your primary school to be a co-educational school or a single-sex school?

- Co-educational school
- Single-sex school

Patronage/ethos preference

Would you prefer your primary school to operate under a denominational (religious) patron or to operate under a multi-denominational (non-religious) patron?

- denominational (religious) patron
- multi-denominational (non-religious) patron

Language preference (education through English or through Irish)

Would you prefer your primary school to provide education primarily through the English language or through the Irish language?

- education through English
- education through Irish.”

If you are a parent or guardian, you will also be asked for other details. You will be asked for your Eircode, if you have children in primary school now and if you have children who will start school in the coming years.

**When can I do the survey?**

You can do the survey from now to 16 December 2025.

How long will it take to do the survey?

It only takes 5 minutes to complete the survey.

How will my information be used?

Your answers are confidential and will not be shared with anyone else. The answers from your school will help the department and your school to plan for the future.

What will happen with the results of the survey?

The survey is the first step of a process of inclusive dialogue to help the Department of Education and Youth with planning at primary school level. A good response rate will be important in analysing the outcomes of the survey. We will use the survey results to input into our analysis of national, local and school-specific data to help us with planning at primary school level. We will work with the relevant stakeholders where there is support from the parents and guardians of your school for change.

When will the results of the survey be available?

Initial high-level summary results (response rates) will be published in early 2026.

The results of the survey will help the department in planning education provision at primary level.



Who do I contact if I want to discuss special educational needs provision for my child(ren)?

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) was set up to improve the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs with particular emphasis on children. The NCSE local service is delivered through their national network of Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) who interact with parents and schools. The number of SENOs has increased from 65 to 120 with the aim of providing an improved level of service for parents and schools.

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NCSE contact information: www.ncse.ie/contact-the-ncse

Any contact with the NCSE and/or SENO by a parent or guardian regarding special needs provision is completely separate to the primary school survey. All responses to the survey are confidential. We will protect the identity of the people who respond to this survey. We will not publish any individual response or identify to schools, any parent, guardian or child.



More Information on the main three survey questions

The survey asks a small number of questions, including on the following areas:

1. Co-education or single-sex school
2. Patronage/ethos
3. Language (education through English or through Irish)

We explain each of these areas below.

1. Co-education or single-sex school explained

About 90% of primary schools in Ireland provide education to boys and girls across all classes. We call this co-education. The remaining 10% or so are single-sex primary schools and provide education to boys only or girls only in some or all classes.

School Type	Approx. percentage of primary schools
Co-educational primary schools (boys and girls educated in the same school)	90%
Single-sex primary schools	10%

2. Patronage/ethos explained

All recognised primary schools (irrespective of patron):

- follow the national curriculum
- follow the Department of Education and Youth rules and regulations
- have a school patron.



The school patron appoints a Board of Management to manage the school on their behalf. Under the Education Act, 1998 the patron also decides on the ethos of the school.

Ethos of Primary Schools	
Denominational – Catholic	88.3%
Denominational - Other religions, mainly Church of Ireland	6.2%
Multi-denominational	5.5%

Children in multi-denominational schools learn about all faiths and belief systems as part of the school day. They use multi-denominational programmes, like:

- Education and Training Board Community National School's Goodness Me! Goodness You!
- Educate Together's Learn Together
- An Foras Pátrúnachta's Croí na Scoile.

3. Language (education through English or through Irish) explained

92% of primary schools teach mainly through the English language. The remaining 8% teach mainly through the Irish language. All recognised schools follow the national curriculum.

Language of Instruction	Percentage of primary schools
Education through English	92%
Education through Irish	8%