



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



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HISTORY OF PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In 1908, the Archbishop, Most Reverend John Healy asked the Presentation Order in Tuam to set up a convent in Athenry and to teach in the Girls School, at the urgent request of the Parish Priest, Canon Canton. He vacated his own house and gave it to the nuns as their new convent. Two of the nuns started teaching immediately in the primary school situated in Abbey Row. In 1910 the first Presentation Primary School was opened. The school which was called the Sacred Heart School was situated at the back of the convent and accommodated 150 pupils. Sr. Paul was the first Principal. Due to rising numbers another classroom was built in 1912. The numbers on roll were rising rapidly in the mid sixties hence another room was built onto the school. In 1976 a new school building was finalised between the Presentation Sisters and the Commissioners of Public Works, the site being provided by the Presentation Sisters.

The second Presentation Primary School was officially opened on the 4th of September 1980, with Sr. Kevin as Principal and 290 pupils on roll. The school is called after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, hence its name Scoil Chroí Naofa. Sr. Eithne Cunniffe succeeded Sr. Kevin as Principal. In 1993, Teresa Neylon was appointed as the first lay Principal with 273 pupils on roll. The school was extended in 2010 consisting of one classroom with a corridor, two offices, a stairs, four toilets, and a linking corridor between the school and the new classroom. In 2013, our school transferred ownership from the Presentation Sisters to the Tuam Diocese. In November 2018 following Mrs Neylon's retirement, Mr. Fergal Naughton was appointed as the first male principal. At present there are 346 pupils enrolled. There are twenty seven members of staff, i.e. fourteen class teachers, four special education teachers, three special needs assistants, three supply panel teachers, the principal, secretary and caretaker.

PHILOSOPHY OF OUR SCHOOL

Scoil Chroí Naofa is a Presentation school. It is a Christian Catholic group of pupils, parents, staff and management. We share a similar vision. We live out the Christian message by handing on the Faith and Christian values. Nano Nagle was the foundress of the Presentation Order. Inspired by her vision, our Presentation school gives priority to:

- Providing pupils with an education for life and living
- Sharing and celebrating the vision of life.

VISION STATEMENT

Inspired by the vision of Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Order, the staff in Scoil Chroí Naofa aim to:

- Acknowledge and respect the dignity, uniqueness and individual needs of our pupils and in doing so, develop the whole child, physically, intellectually, emotionally, creatively, spiritually and socially
- Be caring, fair and committed to the best interests of our pupils and seek to motivate, inspire and celebrate effort and success.
- Enable each child to learn and develop in a happy, safe, stimulating and mutually respectful environment.
- Establish a learning environment where pupils are active agents in the learning process and instil in them an interest in and love of learning
- Develop each child as a social, literate and digitally responsible being who lives and co-operates generously with others and so contributes to the good of society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Board of Management, Staff and Parents of Scoil Chroí Naofa are committed to:

- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum that is holistic in its approach thus enabling each student to achieve their full potential
- Continuing to provide Catholic Education and spiritual development enabling our pupils to celebrate the Christian vision of life.
- Being a positive influence in the lives of our pupils, by exercising good professional judgement and by showing empathy in our practice
- Being inclusive and welcoming of children from diverse, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Cultivating positive relationships with pupils, colleagues, parents and the wider school community
- Communicating effectively with pupils, colleagues, parents and the wider school community in a manner that is professional, collaborative, supportive, and based on trust and respect
- Working in a collaborative manner in the interest of sharing, developing and supporting good practice and providing the highest quality of educational experiences for our pupils
- Being committed to continuous professional development and reflecting on and critically evaluating our practice in order to ensure best practice
- Being connected to our local community and being supportive of local initiatives
- An cultúr agus an teanga gaelach a chothú agus a úsáid

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

All schools operate under the Rules of National Schools, which are drawn up by the Minister for Education & Skills. The patron of our school is Archbishop Michael Neary of the Tuam diocese. The Board of Management is comprised of representatives of the patron, parents, teachers and the local community. They are elected every four years. The members of the Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Naofa are as follows

- Two members appointed by the patron; Bernie Ryan and Fr. Benny McHale.
- Two parents, a mother and a father of children in the school; Joanne Melia Costello and Paul Fitzgerald.
- The principal and a teacher representative; Fergal Naughton and Cathriona Cronin.
- Two members from the community elected by the Board of Management; Stefanie Moynihan and Fergal Melia.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parent's Council is the structure through which parents can work together for the best possible education for their children. We have a very active Parents Council in our school. Parents volunteer to become members of the Council at our Annual General Meeting in early October. There are also two parents on the Board of Management and two members of the teaching staff on the Council. There are approximately six meetings in the year.

The aims of the Parents' Council are as follows;

- To represent the views of parents
- To inform parents of developments in education and in school.
- To foster co-operation between parents, teachers and school management.
- To liaise with parents on the Board of Management.
- To help with the provision of extra equipment and teaching aids.
- To help parents from a monetary point of view.
- To organise talks and discussions on topics of interest for parents.
- To provide a forum for debate and discussion on matters that are of interest to them and their children.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Sixth class are the members of the Student Council under the leadership of Mrs. Monson. The role of the Student Council is as follows;

- To assist the School Management Team with organising the younger classes at whole school events e.g. start of school term, church masses, Monster walk to school days, Grandparents day etc.
- To make positive changes to the school environment
- To be a link with our School Community

- The following are some of the wonderful activities they have been involved in this year; The Junior Entrepreneur Programme, Organising Christmas Decorations for Athenry Christmas Trees, fundraising for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Trust, taking part in a Craft and Knitting Display with the Knitting Club, organising a Bake Sale in aid of Athenry Tidy Towns and a second Bake Sale in aid of the Parents Council, Co-ordinating SCN Sports day etc.

STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE

In 2020 we piloted a "Student Voice Committee" under the guidance of Mr Hanley. It is made up of 2 representatives from each of the senior classes (from 3rd up to 6th). The girls meet with Mr Hanley once every term to discuss what they would like to try new in the school and what they see is not working well for pupils. Mr Hanley takes these suggestions to the Staff Management meeting. Then at the next Student Voice Committee meeting Mr Hanley feeds back to the pupils which of their suggestions are possible and which are not. The girls in turn update their classes after the meeting. This gives the girls a flavour of how politics works!

GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Mrs Greally is the Green school Coordinator and is assisted by her 4th class. We have been awarded nine flags based on the following themes: Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, Global Citizenship - Litter & Waste, Global Citizenship - Energy, Global Citizenship - the Marine Environment and Global Citizenship - Travel. We are currently working on our 10th flag - Biodiversity & Food

We all have a responsibility in looking after our environment and everyone can make a difference. We in Scoil Chroí Naofa have become friends of the environment by

- Keeping our school clean and tidy.
- Disposing of our waste in the correct bins.
- Cutting down on the use of single plastics
- Saving electricity.
- Making the best use of heat
- Conserving water in our school.
- Enhancing our school environment.
- Walking to school whenever we can or using Park and Stride
- Protecting biodiversity in our local area
- Thinking globally and acting locally
- Practising at home and in the locality of Athenry what we have learned in school.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The motto of the Diversity Committee is Stand Up, Stand Strong and Stand Together. Their role is to welcome new children, parents and staff to our school community. The following are some of their duties; directing children to walk in a safe manner going in and out of the school during break times, buddying new children in the yard, friendship monitors, health & safety audit of the school yard, assisting at big events, e.g. Open Day, Grandparents Day, etc.

ACTIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. McDonald is the Co-Ordinator of the Active School Committee. Their slogan is Be active! Keep active! Stay active! The Active School Committee has 3 aims:

- To make sure that everybody takes part in some kind of activity during or after school, e.g. walking, cycling, swimming, running or playing,
 - To help children be more active inside and outside of school. It is recommended that children have at least 60 minutes of activity every day.
 - To make sure we have fun while getting more active.
- We participated in a two year Active School Programme and received the Active School Flag. We have an Active School Week in June where children are encouraged to be active, at school and at play.
 - We have also taken part in the SuperTrooper Programme (run by Laya Health Care) which is designed to encourage children to be active for 60 minutes on a daily basis. The children are provided with homework activity journals which are filled with fantastic fun activities to do at home.
 - We took part in the Be Active School campaign during the European week of Sport. Each class took part in the "Run Around Europe" Challenge. The challenge consisted of all classes walking or running as many laps of the school yard as possible for 15 minutes per day (1 lap = 1km). Each child's total was recorded to make a class total. The total was then compared to the distances of capital cities in other countries from Ireland. This was plotted on the "Run Around Europe" Challenge Board displayed in the hall.
 - All classes are encouraged to take part in the Daily Mile. The Daily Mile consists of walking or running for 1 mile (1.6km) or for 15 minutes each day.
 - Many of the classes also go on "active" school tours e.g. "Let's Go" camps in Galway / Limerick, Baysports in Athlone and Wildlands in Moycullen.

HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The motto of the Healthy School Committee is "Healthy Body Strong Mind Go Better Together". Our school implemented a two year Healthy School Programme a number of years ago and secured the Health Promoting School Award. The following are some of the activities that have become embedded in the school ethos as a result:

- We revised our healthy eating policy
- Our community is encouraged to drink more water.

- We became fruit and veg eaters as a result of the Food Dudes Programme.
- We enhanced our environment by painting a mural and games on playground.
- We highlight our school as a bullying free zone during Anti Bullying week

PARENT TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Good communication and co-operation between parents and teachers is fundamental to the development of a happy effective learning environment. If parents have any concern, they are advised to make an appointment. Formal parent teacher meetings are held during first term. School reports are issued at the end of the school year. Since September 2018 we no longer send home a paper copy of the school newsletter in the children's bags. Parents only receive newsletters by email. The newsletter will continue to be posted to the Website. Parents receive a calendar of school closures. Our school uses the Aladdin Connect app. We use the app to send notifications to parents for unpredictable events, emergency contact, important reminders, meetings, etc. Parents can also view their child's attendance record and their school report cards on the app. If your child is absent from school for any reason, you can note the reason on the app, instead of having to send in a note to teacher.

PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL FOR THE JUNIOR INFANT

Starting school is a milestone in the life of a child. There are many ways in which parents can ensure that the transition from the relative freedom of home to the more structured school day is a smooth one. Some of this preparation should begin some months before the child starts and should be carried out gradually. Please note the following steps when enrolling your child:-

- Enrolment forms are available in the school from February each year.
- There is a Reception meeting / Open night in February for all the parents of children who are about to start school in September. At this meeting the policies of the school are explained and a summary of the Junior Infant Programme is outlined. Tips and guidelines in preparing your child for school are issued.
- The child visits the school for one afternoon before school starts in September, to meet the Principal, his/her teacher and his/her new classmates.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE

School Code

All pupils are expected to:

- Behave in a responsible manner towards themselves and others by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils and adults at all times.
- Show respect for the property of each individual and of the school at all times.
- Behave in a way, which will uphold the good name of the school at all times.

GOLDEN RULES

There are six Golden Rules in our school. If the children strive to keep the Golden Rules during the week, they are rewarded with Golden time on a Friday. Golden time is a very happy session where the children engage in very pleasant activities organised by the teachers as a reward for good behaviour. The following are our six Golden Rules;

- Be gentle Do not hurt anybody
- Be kind and helpful Do not hurt people's feelings
- Work hard Do not waste your or other people's time
- Look after property Do not waste or damage things
- Listen to people Do not interrupt
- Be honest Do not cover up the truth

School Rules

1. Food

- No nuts of any kind are allowed.
- Drinks are not allowed in the school yard.
- Children are required to bring nutritious lunches according to our Healthy Eating Policy
- Chewing gum, crisps, fizzy drinks and glass bottles are not allowed in the school

2. Pupils must be punctual at all times. School begins at 8.50am. Afternoon classes begin at 1pm. Junior and Senior Infants go home at 1.30pm. Pupils in First Class up to Sixth Class go home at 2.30pm. ***The Board of Management does not take responsibility for children in the school yard before 8.45pm or after 2.30pm unless they are attending extra-curricular classes.***

3. The following behaviour is strictly forbidden:-

- Shouting and running within the school building, loitering, vandalism, littering, rudeness, giving cheek, bad language, name calling, rough play, kicking, punching, throwing stones, scratching or scraping.
- All types of bullying including Cyber Bullying and Racial Bullying are unacceptable and strictly forbidden.

4. All types of bullying are unacceptable and strictly forbidden

5. Uniform:

- The correct full school uniform must always be worn with suitable, safe, flat footwear.
- Long hair should always be tied back.
- Make-up is strictly forbidden.
- PE clothes are worn to school on the day that your child's class has PE

6. Jewellery must be kept to a minimum.

- Only small safe earrings are acceptable i.e. studs, sleepers. No large hoops or long dangling earrings are allowed.
- Nose jewellery is strictly forbidden.

- Long necklaces or chains are not allowed.
 - Nails should be kept short. Long/False nails are forbidden.
7. Runners, tracksuits or shorts & t-shirts must be worn for Physical Education.
 8. When a child has been absent from school their parent(s) must note the reason for the absence on the Aladdin app under "Attendance". Alternatively, if this is not possible then the child must bring a written explanation to the teacher/principal when they return to school after the absence.
 9. Children must follow the safe route in and out of the school grounds, i.e. to enter through the stiles, to follow route set out by green fence, to walk behind the prefab and into playground or to enter from the upper playground.
 10. During school hours children are not allowed to leave the school premises without permission from parents.
 11. Children are not allowed into the school building during playtime without permission.
 12. All types of mobile phones are forbidden

COMBINED CLASSES:

- All classes will have children of mixed ability.
- The dynamics of each class is considered. Emotional, behavioural and social factors which could upset the dynamic of the new class are taken into consideration. (Academic ability is not taken into consideration). The following children will be integrated as much as possible; traveller children, children with special needs and children who don't have English as their first language.
- Every year brings changes, due to fluctuating enrolments and changes to our staffing schedules by the Department of Education.
- Pupils may be taught in a combined class setting at least once in the 8 year primary cycle in SCN, this depends on pupil numbers in the given standard for the year in question.
- Where a combined class is deemed necessary for the coming year, the school will do its level best to ensure that children who were in a combined class in the previous school year, will not be in a combined class for the coming 2 years. The top consideration for being chosen for a combined class is whether a child was in a combined class before during their time in SCN. After this, the normal criteria applies i.e. mixed ability, class dynamics etc.
- Straight classes in SCN are generally made up differently every year so parents should expect that the pupils in their child's class will not remain the same every year, whether they are in a straight class or whether they are in a combined class.
- The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups.

- In early term 3 each year, a piece appears in the school newsletter, asking parents to get in touch with the school before a certain date with any information they wish the school to consider when formulating the classes for the coming school year. All information & requests from parents are taken into consideration when the classes are being compiled.
- Decisions will lie ultimately with the Principal and the Management team, who consider the needs of every child in the class. Parents are asked to trust the professional judgement of the Principal and Management team. Decisions taken on this matter are taken on an informed, professional basis and are final. Parental support on this matter is appreciated.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum taught in our school is Religious Education, English, Irish, Mathematics, Visual Arts, Music, Social Personal and Health Education, History, Geography, Science, Physical Education and Drama. Technology is used not only as a tool to enhance curricular areas but is also embedded in our teaching, learning and assessment. We use a range of technology to achieve this including e.g. iPads, Bee Bots, Mac Books & Chrome Books. As Scoil Chroí Naofa is a Catholic school, Religious Education has a high priority in our school day. Regular assemblies take place with prayers and hymns. Second Class pupils make their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Sixth Class girls make their Confirmation. During the year the children from 3rd up to 6th class receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We also celebrate 2 special Masses together each year: we celebrate a mass on Nano Nagle's feast day in November and again at the end of the year we have a graduation mass for the graduating 1st class boys and 6th class girls.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is:-

- To give the children an opportunity to work individually, practice what they have learned, find out things for themselves and give them the good habit of work.
- To give parents an opportunity to work with their child and to keep them informed of what is being done in school and of their own child's progress.

Children in Junior and Senior Infant Classes get Oral work, Reading, Writing and Maths depending on the class ability and age of the child. The type of homework a child gets from 1st class to 6th class is Spellings, Tables, Maths, Religion, Reading, Writing, Memory work and Research work. There are times when other homework is given e.g. History, Geography, Science and Music.

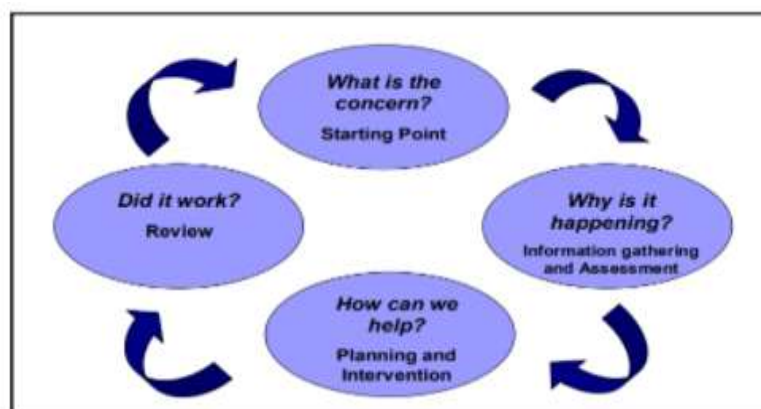
SCN SEN Statement

At Scoil Chroi Naofa, we are fully committed to providing an inclusive and nurturing environment, where all pupils, including those with special educational needs and in other vulnerable groups are able to access a broad, balanced, relevant and challenging curriculum. We endeavour to work in close partnership with parents at every juncture and strive towards achieving a supportive and nurturing team around the child.

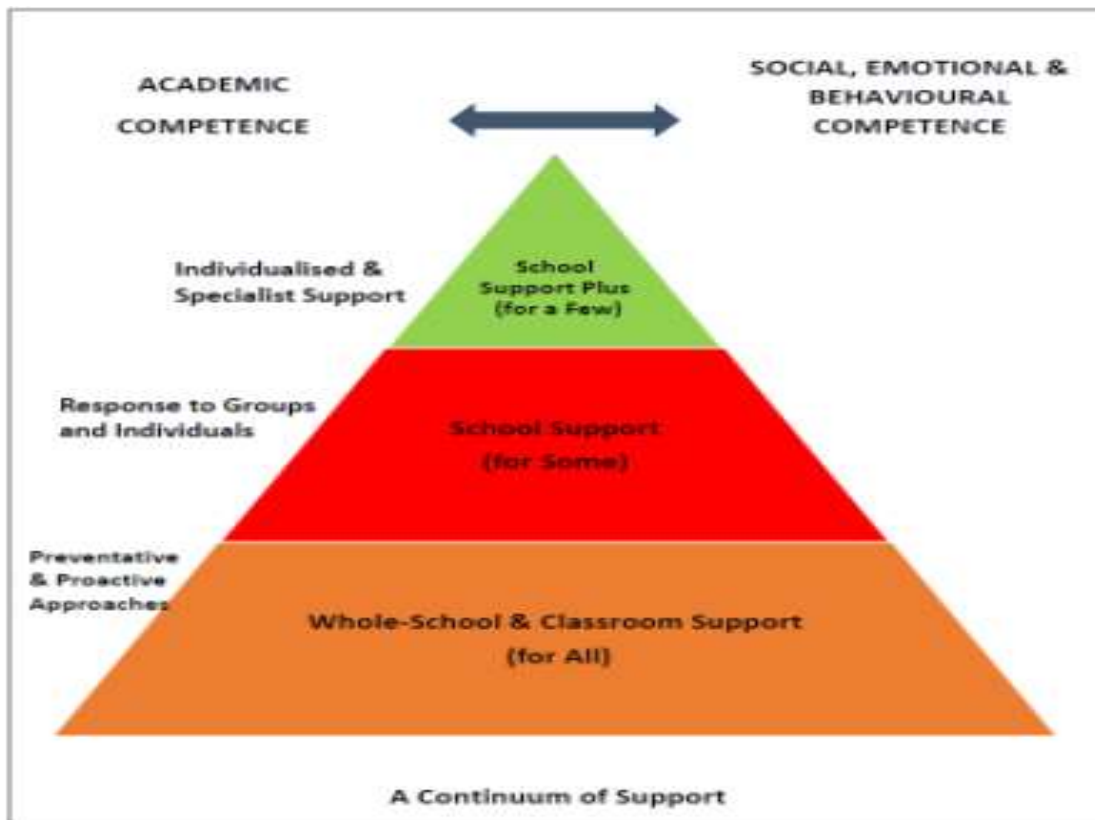
SCN SEN Team and SEN Model

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team is led by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (Mrs Cronin, DP) who is responsible for the management and organisation of additional Support and resources in partnership with the principal. The wider SEN team comprises 4 fulltime Special Education Teachers (SETs), 1 additional part time SET and 3 Special Needs Assistants. The SEN team work together to implement the Continuum of Support SEN Model which recognises that special educational needs occur along a continuum, ranging from mild to severe, and from transient to long term, and that students require different levels of support depending on their identified educational needs. Using this framework helps to ensure that our interventions are incremental, moving from class-based interventions to more intensive and individualised support, and that they are informed by careful monitoring of progress.

The Continuum of Support is a problem-solving model of assessment and intervention that enables schools to gather and analyse data, as well as to plan and review the progress of individual students.



The Continuum of Support enables us to identify and respond to needs in a flexible way. This means that needs can be responded to as early as possible. Of course, the principle that pupils with the greatest level of need have access to the greatest levels of support is of primary importance. This approach is also supported by information and engagement with external professionals, as required. The following levels of support are suggested.



How are children identified as having Special Educational Needs in SCN?

In Scoil Chroi Naofa, children are identified as having SEN through a variety of ways including:

- Liaison with the child's previous school/early years setting
- Concerns raised by parents/guardians
- Concerns raised by a child's class teacher
- Concerns raised due to behavioural difficulties or poor self-esteem which is affecting engagement and performance
- Liaison with external professionals (e.g. speech and language therapist, occupational therapist)
- A medical diagnosis

Students are provided with support based on their individual needs and staffing resources.

This support can be either:

- on a One to One Basis
- in Small Groups
- through Team Teaching/in-class support

What should a parent do if they think their child may have special educational needs ?

If you have any concerns or are worried about your child please speak to your child's class teacher or the school SENCO. The class teacher is responsible for adapting and refining the curriculum to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils. The class teacher is also responsible for checking and monitoring the progress of all children and planning the delivery of extra support in conjunction with the Special Education Team. The class teacher and the Special Education Teacher will work together to write personalised learning plans known as Student Support Files in order to prioritise and focus on the next steps required to enable children to improve their learning.

STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

The Stay Safe Programme is taught in all classes every second year. The aim of the programme is to teach children personal safety skills, so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations, which most children will experience at some stage or other, e.g. getting lost or being bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse. Children are taught to tell a trusted adult about any problems they may have.

MUSIC

- We have a very active vibrant band called the Medieval Town Band. Children from second to sixth class are members of the band. They learn a repertoire of music and routines. They play tin whistles, melodicas, bell lyres, accordions and percussion instruments. Children have the opportunity to learn four instruments during their time in our school. They perform at local events during the school year, e.g. the Lighting of the Christmas Tree and St Patrick's Day Parade.
- Children take part in many Choral Events during the year. They sing at Morning Assemblies, Masses, Prayer Services, Concerts, etc. Senior classes have taken part in the National Children's Choir, Peace Proms Choir and the Hallelujah Choir.

SPORT

- Each year some of the staff act as Camogie Co-ordinators for our school. They organise and support all Camogie Events. They coach the Camogie Team. The pupils compete in the Cumann na mBunscoil League, the INTO Mini 7's and the Athenry Schools Camogie Blitz each year. The G.A.A. Galway Coaching Games Committee also send a coach to our school to train selected classes for a number of weeks.
- Mr Naughton and Mr. Mc Donald select children to participate in the following four Athletics competitions during the year; Galway Primary School Cross Country Running

Competition, Cumann na mBunscoil Cross Country Competition, Cumann na mBunscoil Galway County Primary School Sports and the Community Games Relay Competitions.

- Mr Naughton coaches Basketball to senior pupils as an Extra Curricular Activity and selects teams to participate in an annual Basketball Blitz in Cregmore.
- Providing a variety of sporting experiences is at the essence of sport provision in Scoil Chroí Naofa. This is a deliberate decision by management to ensure that the needs of all and not just some pupils are catered for. Consequently last year pupils also engaged in Gaelic football, Tag rugby and Soccer.
- Sixth Class organise a variety of activities for our annual Sports Day in Kenny Park, which takes place in June.
- Third class attend Swimming Lessons for one week every year.
- John Burke from the Football Association of Ireland provided a six week course on Soccer to the fourth class.
- Over the last few years TY students from Coláiste an Eachreidh coached Spike Ball to 5th & 6th class. The girls then participated in a Spike Ball Blitz in Clarin College.
- Sixth class participate in an annual Cycle Safety Training Course.

DISCOVERY SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHS PROGRAMME

Our school has participated in the Discovery Science Programme for many years under the stewardship of Ms Tyrrell. We have been awarded five Discovery Science Awards of Excellence, five Discovery Science & Maths Awards of Excellence and six Discovery Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths Awards of Excellence.

- This year for Space week, 5th & 6th class girls constructed electro-magnets
- For Science week we watched a live Science show called "This is Science week" by Muinteoir John from RTE's SchoolHub.ie and made our very own illusions
- For Science week all pupils carried out lots of experiments in their classroom. Check out our blog to see all the fun. Ms Tyrrell organised a K'nex workshop to come to our school. The children got to make really cool designs.
- For Engineer's week, 3rd class pupils took part in the STEPS Young Engineer Award competition. This competition encouraged pupils & their teachers to explore the world of engineering by developing an engineering project that would help improve their local community.
- We also had a Lego workshop for the Junior & Senior Infants. They absolutely loved this workshop and were so excited when they got to make electric cars.
- The children were also encouraged to imagine, design & create their own engineering projects.
- For Maths week the children got to go on Maths trails around the school and played Maths games

BUSINESS PROGRAMMES

Mrs Monson's & Mr Kelly's 6th classes have taken part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) for the last number of years. JEP is an entrepreneurial awareness & skills enhancement programme for primary school children over a 12 week period. The children are encouraged to become critical thinkers, to identify a diverse range of strengths & talents, to engage in teamwork & collaboration and to reflect on their learning. This programme brings real life business learning to children. It nurtures creativity, independence and problem solving among the pupils. In previous years, at the start of the process a local businesswoman has spoken to the girls about setting up a business. Over the 12 weeks the children come up with their own business ideas out of which five ideas are selected. The ideas were presented to our three "dragons": Mr Naughton, Mrs Cronin and a member of the local business community. The winning product is then chosen. The next phase is design and costings. The school give a start-up loan and then there is a very busy week of production where the 6th class room gets turned into a hive of activity. Finally the product is showcased & sold to the whole school. The girls the pay back their start up loan and divide up the profits among themselves. It is a fantastic programme and an overall great learning experience for all involved. The class have been awarded a flag, a plaque and certificates in recognition of all their commitment, dedication and hard work.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Our IT Journey to date

- In 2013, we received the Digital Schools Award which recognises excellence in our approach to the integration of Information & Communications Technology (ICT) in learning, teaching and in administration.
- In 2014, we secured a second award called the Digital Schools of Distinction Award, in acknowledgement of our high standards as an e-learning school.
- In 2018, we engaged with the Digital Learning Framework to further drive standards in IT in our school.
- Our whole school target in IT for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 was that our pupils will actively engage with digital resources, appropriate to their class level, to develop their language skills and create curricular-based digital content.
- Ms Murray is our IT Co-Ordinator and oversees planning in this area as well as the purchase and maintenance of equipment
- We are now at the stage where technology is fully embedded into all teaching & learning in the school.

The Digital Technologies in use in our school:

- WIFI is available throughout the school

- Classroom teachers have access to the following: an Interactive Whiteboard, Smart Notebook Software, teacher and pupil laptops, class printer and photocopier, cordless keyboards and mouse, visualisers, iPads, Apple TV, Mac Books & Chrome books
- Interactive whiteboards are used by teachers and pupils to interact with online resources such as Bua na Cainte / Jolly Phonics / CJ Fallon resources.
- There are a total of thirty pupil iPads and one teacher iPad which are available to each of the classes in the school. An additional six iPads are available to the Special Education Team for use in in-class literacy and numeracy programmes. All iPads are stored in mobile iPad storage trolleys with accompanying headphones.
- Class teachers have access to specific iPads with keyboards for blogging and for capturing photos and video footage
- A tripod and mount for an iPad is available to teachers creating videos. A Green Screen pack is also available which includes a stand to hang the green sheet from. The Green Screen App is installed on all iPads.

How Technology is used in our School:

- iPads are used by pupils to play curricular-based games to reinforce literacy and maths skills and concepts
- iPads are also used to research information online for curricular-based work in middle and senior classes
- BeeBots are used by Junior and Senior Infants during Aistear. Bee-Bot is a programmable floor robot. Pupils enter instructions to move forward or backward in 15 cm steps or to turn right or left. When they press the <Go> button, the robot moves as instructed. All Junior classes have a Bee-Bot floor mat for use with their robots.
- Literacy and mathematics apps are used in all classes to reinforce concepts and skills in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy
- In 1st - 4th class, pupils use the Book Creator App to create digital content
- In 3rd - 6th class, pupils engage in cross-curricular projects where they access information online as part of the research process
- iMovie is used in 5th & 6th class to create short movies. Pupils work collaboratively in groups to create their movies. They use the Green Screen app in conjunction with iMovie
- Last year 5th & 6th class pupils engaged in an app-smash project where they created content in iMovie and embedded it into the Story Creator app to create a digital book on a chosen curricular topic
- The senior classes participate in Paired iPad sessions with our junior classes
- Special Education Teachers (SETs) use a variety of software and apps to meet the specific learning needs of pupils receiving support.
- On-line safety is of paramount importance in SCN. In light of this, we organise regular Internet Safety talks / workshops for the pupils, staff and parents.

- During the lockdown all classes in the school used the Seesaw app for Remote teaching & learning.
- In 2020 / 2021 the school received a very generous donation of 20 MacBook Airs. These devices were used by the senior pupils
- In 2021 / 2022 the school invested our recent ICT grant in 80 chrome books. These devices will be used by 4th, 5th & 6th classes from Sept 2022. The pupils will be introduced to Google classroom.
- As a result of this initiative for the senior classes, it means that the junior & middle classes will have more access to iPads in the classroom on a regular basis.

Our Media Platforms:

- Mr Hanley moderates our school website and all other SCN media platforms. We invite you to visit our school website on www.scoilchroinaofaathenry.ie. The website includes many useful features for parents most noticeably "The Parents Portal" which will keep you up-to-date with our school diary and calendar, newsletters and important policies and tips for working with your child. Our website also boasts a very active school blog which is updated regularly and will keep you up-to-date with all the wonderful activities taking place in SCN.
- We launched our very own YouTube Channel under the guidance of Krzysztof Bronowicki in 2018. This exciting facility allows us to upload group school videos for you to watch at home and for our pupils to watch in school. It is our way of sharing some fantastic things your children do and experience in school with you. To access it; log on to YouTube, type Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry into the search and our channel pops up. Press the subscribe button on the right hand side of the page. Once you subscribe to the channel it will automatically pop up in your channel subscriptions on the left toolbar, if you are logged into You Tube. You don't have to subscribe, you can just type in the school name each time you want to look at uploaded videos. Alternatively here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nf-ZzIZ_BrY
- Our Twitter Account was set up in 2019. Once again it will give you a flavour of life in SCN. You can follow us at @ChroiNaofa or alternatively follow this link: <https://twitter.com/ChroiNaofa>.
- In 2021 / 2022 we joined Instagram: www.instagram.com/scoilchroinaofaathenry

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school offers a great variety of activities after school. Times and days for these activities vary from year to year according to availability of staff. The activities include Sports Club, Camogie, Spike Ball, Spanish Lessons, Table Quiz, Art Attack Classes, Basketball, Creative Dance, Drama Club, Yoga Club, Science Club, Gaeilge Club, Guitar Club, Coding club, Easter & Summer Camps.

TIMETABLE

8.45am	School doors are opened.
8.50am	Classes commence
10.30am	Morning Break
10.45am	Classes recommence
12.30pm	Lunch Break
1.00pm	Classes recommence
1.30pm	Classes end for Junior and Senior Infants
2.30pm	Classes end for First to Sixth Class pupils

UNIFORM

It is important to foster a pride in the school and to make the children feel part of it. The uniform is worn in the school at all times.

- The girls wear a navy pinafore with our school crest, blue check shirt, navy tie, white/navy socks/tights and a navy cardigan with a light blue stripe on the cuff and waistband.
- The boys wear navy trousers, blue check shirt, tie and dark coloured socks, navy jumper with our school crest and a light blue stripe around the neck and on the cuff and waistband.
- Please note
 - Plain pinafores and jumpers without crest are not acceptable.
 - Navy cardigans and jumpers must have the correct light blue stripes.
- Our full uniform can be purchased in National Schoolwear Centre, Centre Point, Liosbán, Galway or Anthony Ryan's Shop, Shop Street, Galway
- Please make sure you write your child's name on all items of the uniform.
- If your child has outgrown his/her uniform and you have no further use for it, we would very much appreciate if you would donate it to the school, as we keep a supply for children who come to the school for short periods and for those who have financial difficulty.
- Your child will also need runners for Physical Education lessons.
- On the day that your child's class have PE, your child should come to school dressed in their PE clothes.
- Children require old large shirts for Visual Art lessons.

BOOKS

A number of books will be available on a rental scheme. Books on loan from school will need to be returned in good condition. Pupils are required to treat books with respect. If books are mislaid, they will need to be replaced. Booklists are available in June. Children should have their books

by the first school day of September, so work can begin immediately. Books should be covered, labelled and kept clean.

If you wish to purchase your books, they are available at the following venues/website:

- Eason's, Shop Street & Headford Rd, Galway
- Loughrea School & Office Supplies, Bride Street, Loughrea
- Books 'n More, Orantown Centre, Oranmore
- Book Exchange, 23 Lower Abbeygate Street, Galway (second hand books available)
- www.buybooks.ie
- www.schoolbooks.ie

HEALTHY EATING

- The school acknowledges that foods should not be labelled as 'good' or 'bad' but that within the school grounds, children staff and parents make every effort to eat foods which benefit health, growth and development of the child.
- Healthy Eating forms part of the SPHE curriculum and is taught in all classes.
- All children are encouraged to eat a well balanced lunch during the day.
- All children are encouraged to drink fluids during the school day.
- Children have two breaks every day when they are encouraged to slowly eat and enjoy the contents of their lunch box.
- Lunch boxes should contain a drink, sandwich, fruit/veg and dairy product etc.
- **All chocolate products are forbidden** during school hours, e.g. nutella, chocolate yogurts, sprinkles of chocolate, chocolate coated biscuits, chocolate flavoured drinks, chocolate chip cookies, etc.
- Treat foods have a limited role in a healthy diet. The school will provide a treat food on special occasions such as end of term, feast days. Parents are asked not to provide treat foods for birthdays etc.

For Safety

- All children are supervised by staff at all breaks.
- **Our school is a nut free zone.** Some children suffer from severe nut allergy. Parents are requested not to provide any nut products including nuts, nut butters, chocolate spreads.
- Glass bottles are forbidden.
- Foods should be the appropriate size and texture for junior classes. Par boil carrots and chop fruit to bite size pieces if required.
- Ensure lunchboxes are emptied & washed in warm soapy water & dried after each day.

Practical

- To decrease packaging and litter, all children are requested to have:
 - A lunch box for their food
 - Flasks or plastic screw top bottles for drinks
- The Green School Committee request that
 - Tinfoil and cling film are kept to a minimum and brought home
 - Plastic bottles are reused.

HEALTH ISSUES

- The principal and the teacher should be informed if your child has a medical need or an allergy which might affect him/her at school.
- If your child needs medicine, you are required to inform the Board of Management in writing and to complete an Administration of Medicine Form. The staff may then administer medicine with the consent of the Board of Management.
- If a child becomes ill in school, parents will be contacted immediately. Please make sure you forward to the school a contact number for the following: home, work and a family member/neighbour/friend.
- If a child is seriously injured the Doctor will be called immediately and the parents/guardians will be contacted. In the case of cuts or minor injuries the child will be given First Aid.

CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

The Board of Management of Scoil Chroí Naofa have published their Child Safe Guarding Statement. If there is a matter of concern in relation to harm and abuse of children, we are obliged to report this to Tusla who will assess the case and provide the necessary support. In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000, when a pupil is absent for part or all of a school day, parents must notify the teacher/principal. If a pupil is absent for more than 20 days during the school year, the school authorities must inform the Education Welfare Board.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The school endeavours to provide a safe environment. Children should behave in a way, which does not endanger themselves or others. The Board of Management have introduced a safe system for entering and leaving the school grounds.

- All cars should be parked outside the school grounds, in the car parks outside the school gates and at the Church.
- Parents and children coming from the Tuam Road and Monivea Road side are requested to enter and leave the school grounds through the stiles (gaps) in the wall.
- **DO NOT WALK UNDER THE BARRIER**

- Please ensure that your child does not walk on the wall.
- On entering the school grounds everybody is asked to follow the route set out by the green fence, i.e. to walk behind the prefab and into the playground.
- Parents and children coming from the Convent are requested to enter and leave the school grounds through the top yard.
- Each class has been assigned a designated entry and exit point into & out of the school building. This is to reduce the opportunity for large groups of people congregating on the school grounds.
- For those of you collecting your children at 1.30pm please be aware that there are classes working in the prefabs & in the classroom in the top yard. We would be grateful if your children could be kept reasonably quiet while passing. Please remind them also, that they are not allowed to go up and down the steps and ramps of the prefabs.
- Cars are not allowed inside the school grounds. Children should be dropped off and collected at the gates.
- All dogs are to be kept off school property, at all times, as they are a source of distress to some children.

MONEY

Please settle all money matters promptly so as to save time and to assist the school in running as efficiently as possible. Most payments can be made electronically via Aladdin Connect. If cash payment is required, the following procedure will ensure safe cash transaction and avoid confusion, error or loss:

- Money should be placed in a sealed envelope.
- Please write the following on the outside of the envelope:
 - Your child's name.
 - The amount enclosed.
 - The purpose for which the money is being forwarded.

FINAL NOTE

The education of children is the joint responsibility of home and school. One cannot succeed without the help of the other. We look forward to getting to know your family and we truly wish your child every happiness and success in Scoil Chroí Naofa.

Sincerely

Fergal Naughton

Príomhoide