



Castletownroche N.S.

Prospectus for New Families - 2021

Principal's Welcome

It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that I, as Principal, welcome prospective students to Castletownroche National School. There is an old Chinese proverb that states, 'Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.' Therefore, I invite you via these pages to enter the world of Castletownroche National School. Sample an array of pursuits from the academic to liberal arts, from sporting to musical, from individual pursuits to team pursuits.



Your children will be challenged and encouraged in our school and they will have the opportunity to discover and develop their talents.

At Castletownroche National School we have a team of high-calibre, committed, dedicated teachers whose primary concern will be to help your children to be the best that they can be while having fun becoming just that.

I am very proud of this school but I am even more proud of our pupils. You can see the work of our pupils and their achievements as you traverse these pages and you will see the wealth of talent that we continuously nurture.



Unfortunately with the current school closures due to Covid 19, it is not currently possible for you to visit us in person and witness first-hand the many successes achieved by our pupils. We hope that by browsing the following pages you will gain a flavour of life in Castletownroche National School; a place where friendships are made, talents developed and nourished and where the exciting world of knowledge, success and endeavour is open for your children. We hope that you get an idea of the bright, confident and happy children in our care.

Is mise le meas,

Eóin Bracken



Students work on a variety of activities all based on a set of learning outcomes.



It is fantastic to see how confident the children become at working both independently and in small groups.

School Self-Evaluation

As part of our collaborative, inclusive and reflective school self-improvement plan, we decided to focus on the Local Nature - Flora and Fauna. We recognized the deficit and appetite for this type of learning.

Already, the children have begun to address this curiosity. They have made bird tables, feeders and bird boxes which are dotted throughout the school grounds.



We have had a visit from the Heritage Council of Ireland who conducted a workshop on Irish Garden Birds and Birds of Prey. Plans are in place to have practitioners from the Heritage Council of Ireland visit on a continuous basis.



We have also begun the process of developing a Heritage School Garden. This will have a variety of native Irish trees, Wildflower and will hopefully provide for the school kitchen. During the 2020-2021 school year, the children will construct a variety of raised beds in which they will plant the aforementioned.



Well-Being in Castletownroche N.S.

Education about mental health and well-being is an integral part of the school curriculum. We believe that we play a vital role in the promotion of positive mental health in children. Schools can also provide a safe and supportive environment for building life skills,

resilience and a strong sense of connectedness to the school community.



The pupils frequently participate in Cookery, Mindfulness, Meditation and Yoga Activities as well as each class completing a comprehensive Social and Personal Health Educational Program.



Furthermore, our staff are continuously undertaking Professional Development Training in the area of Well-Being. We are constantly working on our Well-Being Framework for Practice to improve the lives of the pupils in our care.

The Student Council

In Castletownroche N.S., we believe in legislating and nurturing the 'Student Voice'. Simply put, giving the student a voice inspires and empowers them to take charge of their education. In our school, annual elections take place in order to elect students to the council. This is a democratic and transparent process.



The council enables the students to use their own knowledge to contribute to the classroom and to the school. We believe that when students feel comfortable sharing their voices, they grow into positions of leadership. Having an active Student Council provides the children with a sense of ownership over their environment and learning.

Sports and Physical Education

Every child in our care enjoys the opportunity to fully participate in a wide range of sporting and physical activities. Weekly, the children enjoy Physical Education lessons taught to a high standard. Great emphasis is placed on educating the children from the ground up with each child participating in 3 Fundamental Movement sessions daily.



In an interrupted 2019-2020 school-year, the children participated in a Skipping Workshop, 6 weeks of Gymnastics Classes and had begun Hip-Hop and Ball-Room Dancing Classes, Spike-ball and were due to begin their Swimming programme.



physically activities among the student body. The school continues to take part in this very worthwhile initiative.

The school enjoys an excellent relationship with the local GAA Club and each child is coached to a high standard by voluntary club coaches. The children from 2nd - 6th class participate in all Sciath na Scoil Competitions and blitzes and enjoyed great success in 2019 when winning the girls Sciath na Scoil Football for the first time in the school's history.



We have also signed up for the Daily Mile Exercise Initiative which utilizes the 2 acres of grounds that the school enjoys. Work has commenced on constructing a 200m running track around the school grounds which will be complete in time for the 2020-2021 school year.



They also enjoyed success at the St. Colman's and Loreto Blitz while the 4th Class Boys won the Shield Final of the Indoor Hurling County Finals.

Green Schools Initiative

The Green Schools Flag Initiative is a student-lead whole school action plan based on environmental care. Our school has a Green Schools Committee who are democratically elected by their class peers. We are very proud to have such a dedicated team.



The school has also signed up for the Cork Rebel Óg 5-Star School's GAA Initiative.



In 2019, the school was awarded the Active Flag for work carried out in the previous years for promoting

In 2018, the school was presented with its 4th Green Schools Flag for 'Promoting More Environmentally Sustainable Means of Travelling to School' having already received 3 other flags for 'Reduction of Waste, Conservation of Energy and Conservation of

Water". The school is now focusing on our next Green Flag which is for 'Biodiversity' and which will complement the School Self-Evaluation effort.

Community Links

Castletownroche N.S. enjoys very healthy relationships with all local Community Groups. The Community Council has been very supportive to the school. They have been invaluable when learning about our Local Heritage and frequently accompany the pupils on historical field-trips around the village.



We also enjoy a healthy link with the Castletownroche Tidy Towns Group. It is our intention to take part in the annual An Taisce 'Spring Clean' throughout the community as part of our Green Schools effort.



The Community Hall Committee has been very supportive of the school and make the hall available for school activities frequently. A joint co-operation between the school and the Community Hall Committee has made it possible to secure a Sports Capital Grant to create an Astroturf area adjacent to

the Community Hall. This also will be available to the school for use throughout the school year.

We hope that by cultivating and nurturing the next generation of 'Community Activists' that these community groups will continue to thrive long into the future.

Digital Technology Education

In 2019, we implemented a Digital Strategy that would truly kick-start the school in all things IT-related. Our Broad-Band has been upgraded to a high-speed connection. We built an ICT Hub made up of 20 plus Desktop Computers, 10 Laptop Computers, a Demonstration Projector and Screen plus full printing facilities. All children enjoy the use of 15 iPads with a series of well-chosen Apps and Websites.



With the infrastructure now in-place, the pupils have begun developing keyboard and computer skills using programs such as Dance Mat and Touch-Type, Read and Spell. The senior classes frequently learn and practice Coding using a variety of resources such as Scratch, Hour of Code, Roblox and an Educational Version of Minecraft.



Being aware of the importance of online safety, we conducted a number of Online Safety Workshops in conjunction with Barnados. This involved the provision of highly informative workshops for pupils, teachers and parents. Furthermore, each class celebrates Safer Internet Day each year. This promotes the importance of online safety and responsible behaviour online, allowing our students to become informed and responsible digital citizens.

Achievements and Successes

At Castletownroche N.S., we like to give all of the children varied opportunities to enjoy success. Success doesn't always have to be defined by 'Winning At All Costs'. Successes do not need to involve Silver-Ware or be academic or sporting in nature. They can involve children overcoming their own personal challenges no matter how small in any walk of life. At Castletownroche N.S., we do our utmost to celebrate all of these achievements.



In the competitive sphere, the children have the opportunity to enjoy successes also and have enjoyed numerous achievements throughout the school year. These include Sciath na Scoil GAA competitions and blitzes, Inter-Schools Equestrian, Scór na bPáistí, Table Quizzes, Creative Writing, Speech & Drama and Art to name but a few.



Aladdin Connect

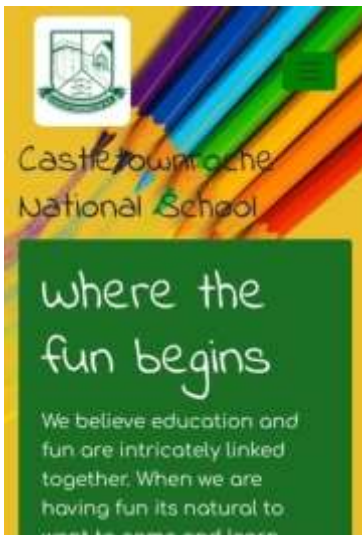
In September 2019, we introduced Aladdin Connect for school administration and it has been a great success. It is a 'free to download' App for all parents and it provides a great means with which to communicate to them. It also allows parents to explain their children's absences, make online school payments, view homework to name but a few functions.



It has proven a valuable asset during the Covid 19 school closures. All parents fully utilize Aladdin Connect. It has allowed us to further support our environmental beliefs and we have now fully migrated away from printed notes, newsletters and permission slips.

School Website - www.ctrns.ie

Over the last number of months, we have been busy compiling content and constructing our new school website. This will go live in the not too distant future at the following address: www.ctrns.ie. The site will have all of the usual functionality plus a number of our own unique features. The following is a glimpse of what the homepage will look like.



School Instagram

Since October 2019, we have used Instagram as a valuable means of communicating with parents and sharing our learning with the school community. This is totally optional for all parents and they can be assured that these are private and closed accounts which are only visible to parents of pupils in the school. It is updated regularly and has proven very popular with parents. It is an excellent means of showing parents the good work that their children complete in the school.



We believe this gives them a valuable insight into what is happening in our classes on a daily basis and throughout the school-year.

Class Padlet Pages

Since March of this year, each class has their own Padlet pages. These collections of valuable learning resources allow children to reinforce and further their learning by engaging with carefully selected activities.



Activities are chosen to allow learning to be fun while catering for the pupil who is looking for further challenges outside of school and homework.

Parent and Student Testimonials

While working on our Mission Statement, we reached out to the parent and student body for feedback. Their responses were very complimentary. It is lovely to hear that we are getting the right balance. Here are a small sample:

Mother of 2 pupils

Having attended Castletownroche N.S. myself, I feel very blessed that our children have the opportunity to go there also, years on. A country school, in a country setting, where our children get unbelievable one-to-one care and attention; a rarity in these modern times. The staff in CTRNS are second to none. From the principal, to the teachers, the SNAs and the secretary, each and everyone does an amazing job every single day because they all care. Not only are our children taught to an excellent high standard, our children are cared for as the individuals they are. There is a zero tolerance for any type of bullying, something which is very important to all of us as parents. When I leave to go to work each day, the importance of knowing our children are in a safe, fair, clean, happy and fun loving environment gives me such peace of mind. As parents, my husband and I couldn't be happier that our children are taught and looked after so well in Castletownroche NS.

Pupil 4th Class

I love my time in school because I learn new things every day from my teacher Miss Deere. I also have fun playing football with my friends at lunchtime. Castletownroche N.S. is a great place to be.

Pupil Junior and Senior Infant Class

I enjoy school because I get to play with my friends and I love meeting my teacher Miss O'Regan every day.

Pupil 5th Class

CTR School is a fun school to be in every day. All of our teachers are fair and teach us very well. I think my days there will help me grow up to be responsible, respectful, kind and smart. We are very lucky to have such great teachers who really care about us all.

Pupil 5th Class

CTRNS is a caring environment. Through play we have learned new life long skills which will prepare us for our lives ahead. Thanks Mr. Bracken.

Pupil 6th Class

CTRNS is a nice school where the students and staff are happy. It is a tidy and clean school. This school helps make people confident to help make new friends when they move on to secondary school.

Pupil 4th Class

We have a safe and friendly environment and all the staff have the best interest of the kids at heart. All kids are looked after and all of their own needs are looked after in different ways. We are glad to say that all of the teachers and kids get along and if any child has a problem or difficulty, the teacher is there to help them. CTRNS is a safe environment for all the kids that attend.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

We hope that you enjoyed reading our School Prospectus for 2021. Please do not hesitate to contact us at castletownrochens@gmail.com or by telephone on (086) 414 3096 if there is anything that you require. Please find a separate enrolment form in the pages below. You will also find our Code of Behaviour accompanying this prospectus in the email you received. Feel free to return Enrolment Forms to the above email address or by post to the school postal address which is Castletownroche N.S., Close Road, Mallow, Co. Cork. P51KT98.

Eóin Bracken
Principal





Enrolment Form

Year: _____ Class: _____

Name of Pupil _____ PPS No. _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Nationality of Child _____ Nationality of Parents _____

Language Support Required

Yes

No

Home Address

Eircode _____

Telephone No. _____ Religion/Denomination _____

Playschool _____

Reports given to us when available

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

Address _____ Address _____
(if different from pupil's) (if different from pupil's)

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Phone _____ Work _____ Phone _____ Work _____

Please inform school of any changes in address and/or contact phone numbers

2 other contacts in case of emergency.

Name: _____ Number _____

Name: _____ Number _____

Name/Phone of family doctor

Please note any educational/medical problems/allergies your child may have

This information is sought in order to ensure inclusion through having resources applied for/in place.

Does any legal order under family law exist that school should know about?

Other relevant details (e.g. medical card or social welfare entitlements)

We have received, read and understood the 'Code of Behaviour' for Castletownroche N.S. We agree to abide by this code and ensure our child understands and keeps the code. We will co-operate with the staff and support the ethos of the school. If enrolled in Castletownroche N.S. we understand we must follow school policies and procedures.

Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Date: _____

This document will be stored safely in the school in accordance with the School Data Protection Policy. Non-sensitive data may be shared with the Department of Education & Skills and/or HSE. Schools are required to transfer data onwards to POD and parents/guardians should be aware that they are giving their child's details for this purpose, in addition to providing it for the purpose of local school administration.

We ask your permission for your child to participate in certain activities. To cut down on unnecessary paperwork and simplify record-keeping, we have included as many permissions as possible on one sheet. Please read carefully each of the items below and tick the relevant box. If you have any concerns regarding any of the items below please feel free to contact the class teacher or principal.

| I hereby give permission for my child in relation to the following: | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Permission to go on school tours, library, local educational visits/field trips and participate in school activities. | | |
| Permission for Castletownroche N.S. to take photos of my child/children during school activities. | | |
| Images of your child and his/her work may appear on our school websites or on our Class Instagram Accounts which can only be viewed by parents of the school. This is entirely for communication purposes and has been a great success. Images may be of individuals or groups. Only your child's first name will be used if at all. Do you agree to the school using your child's image and first name in this way? | | |
| Occasionally local press photographers (e.g. The Avondu) take photos of children. Do you agree to the School using your child's image in this way? | | |
| Do you give permission for your child to be taken immediately to a doctor or hospital in case of serious illness/accident? (In a non-emergency it is the school's policy to inform parents/guardians if their child has had an accident in school which may require them to collect their child and take him/her home or to hospital/doctor). In an emergency it may be necessary to take the child to hospital/doctor and inform parents/guardians afterwards. | | |
| I give my child/children permission to bake, make and taste food. Please inform us if your child has any allergies. | | |
| I give permission to allow my child to attend the Learning Support/Resource teacher as part of a group/ class if deemed necessary. If individual sessions are deemed necessary the school will inform you. If no, please put in writing and the reasons why. | | |
| On occasion we administer 'Diagnostic' tests (e.g. Neale Analysis, MIST, Belfield Infant Screening, NRIT) to discover the educational progress of pupils. Should any concerns arise following these tests we will contact you. Do you agree to this? | | |

Name/s of Child/Children

Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Please give details of the people who have permission to collect your child from school. If there is any change in this routine **please inform the school in writing. Person who usually collects child(children)**

_____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

If there is any change in this regard or if there is any other information which you think may be relevant **it is very important that the school is informed immediately.**

Have you enclosed a copy of the most recent school report and attendance record? Yes

N.B. All forms: must be completed in full and returned to the school before a new pupil will be enrolled in the school. Proof of address must accompany application.

- Code of Behaviour
- RSE Policy Consent Form
- Medical Form
- Enrolment Application Form
- Birth Certificate

Note: We require reports from previous schools in order to meet the needs of your child.

Give details of any health conditions (e.g. asthma, eyesight, hearing, allergies, etc.) or emotional problems which may affect your child at school

Has your child any physical or mental disabilities? If so are there any specific equipment/ resources that the school will require for your child?

**To be completed if your child is transferring
from another Primary School**

Previous School: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

What class was your child in when he/she left the school?

Reason for Transfer: _____
