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E-Mail: secretary@gurraneasigns.com

Web: www.gurraneasigns.com

Twitter: @Gurraneasig_NS



Gurraneasig N.S.

Kilbrittain,

Co. Cork

P72 YP78

Plean Scoile

Gurraneasig National School
(Scoil Náisiúnta Garrán an Easaigh)

Kilbrittain

Co.Cork.

P72 YP78

Telephone:(023)8849700

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Registered Charity Number: 20114039

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Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí

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Introduction

Gurraneasig (Garrán an Easaigh) National School is a small rural school, 4.5km from the village of Kilbrittain, Co. Cork. Garrán an Easaigh means grove of the cascading waterfall.

Enrolment fluctuates, averaging sixty pupils at any one time. We are a five teacher school; comprising three mainstream classroom posts and two special education posts.

Gurraneasig N.S. is a diverse school. While we draw students from our parish of Kilbrittain, and neighbouring parishes of Bandon, Ballinspittle and Kinsale, we also have students with heritage and ties from all over the world attend our school. These countries include The Netherlands, France, Hungary, United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, America and Iraq. This international flavour adds culturally to our school and enhances our children's education.

The overall objectives of our school are to provide our pupils with the best possible Education in their formative years, to instil in them a spirit of cooperation, a respect of each other and for their teachers and a willing attitude to their work, and as they grow through our school, teach them spiritual and moral values which will remain with them to maturity. We hope to achieve this in a happy atmosphere of school life here at Gurraneasig N.S.

The teachers of Gurraneasig N.S. strive to provide a sound grounding in the three R's but also wish to provide every other educational experience for each child. We place great emphasis on I.C.T. as a learning tool. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and students have access to ipads also.

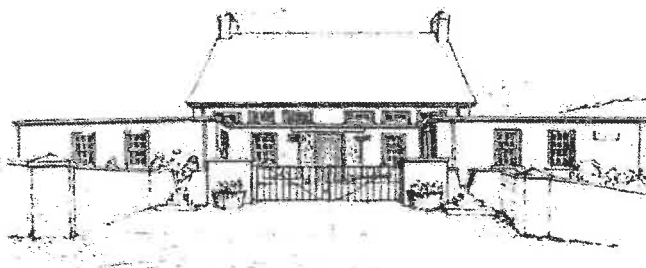
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Students participate in a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities. A number of staff members have expertise in Music and create rich and diverse ways for participants to engage in vocal and instrumental tuition across all musical genres and styles. Students regularly participate in Gardening projects with the Parents Association, teachers and outside facilitators. We also promote whole school art initiatives and regularly partake in Visual Arts initiatives promoted by our local Education Centre e.g. BLAST, Crafted. As an Active School we place emphasis on physical education and movement through participation in Bike Week, Spikeball, Sciath na Scól, Surfing, Zumba, Playball, Table Tennis, Tennis and GAA skills. We are mindful of the holistic development of our students and the importance of mental health awareness and have been awarded the Amber Flag.

We value student voice and have an active Student Council and Green School's Committee. The Green School committee is currently working to renew our Litter and Waste Flag. The Student Council has adopted a focus on promoting the Active School initiative this year.

Gurraneasig prides itself on its positive, supportive and friendly atmosphere. Visitors always remark on the child centred environment both inside and outside of the building. The Board of Management, the Parent Association, the dedicated staff and the local community all work together to ensure the continued running of the school because small schools such as ours, have so much to offer.

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A Brief History of the School

When the present Gurraneasig N.S. opened in 1961, it was a one teacher school with Mrs. Fitzgerald, Clashreagh, as Príomhoide and sole teacher.

Mrs. Fitzgerald retired shortly afterwards and Mrs. Teresa Ahern, Harbour View, took over as Príomhoide. The numbers soon increased and a second classroom teacher was appointed. The designer of the building had the foresight to anticipate such an increase because the large classroom had a partition that could be removed to create two classrooms with a fireplace in both rooms. Storage heaters which had been installed failed to work, so they were abandoned in favour of the open fires which were later changed to stoves.

There was no Board of Management appointed until 1980, so Mrs. Ahern had to call on her husband and supportive parents to do odd jobs to keep the school safe and comfortable e.g. fix broken windows and cut the briars etc. The teachers had to light the fires as their first job every morning, to ensure heat for the day.

A caretaker was appointed in the mid 80's. Our school also had one of the first lay chairpersons of the Board of Management when Mr. Barry O Sullivan was appointed by Fr. McCarthy in 1987.

In 2002 the school was refurbished. Central heating was introduced and two prefabs were set up as an extra classroom and a much needed staff room. In 2006 the school was granted a full time Learning Support/Resource Teacher and in 2007 a third classroom teacher was appointed. Also in 2006 part of the concrete area and the old shelter were demolished and a new tarmacadam basketball court was laid, complete with a new double sized shelter.

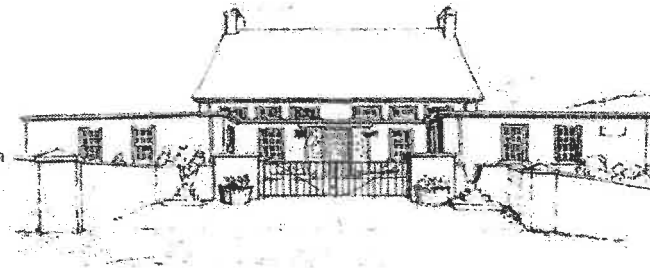
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In March 2006 the Board of Management was informed that a grant was being made available by the Dept. of Education and Science to replace the pre fabs with a permanent accommodation.

September 2011 saw another change in the school's history with the retirement of Mrs. Phil Deasy as Principal & Teacher. She had great vision for the school and under her careful guidance it grew.

She was succeeded by Mr. Edward McCarthy and with the support of its teachers, parents & local community, the school continued to flourish - and many new members of staff were appointed. Mr. Eoin Fitzpatrick took over the Principalship in 2016, and oversaw the digitisation of many communication methods and file management systems within the school. In December 2019, Mrs. Maeve Tighe was appointed Principal of the school. She has overseen many new initiatives & projects, one being a new car park & school revamp in the Summer of 2021, which the school is benefiting from today. She also led & guided the school through a very uncertain Covid-19 pandemic, where online learning and many other control & safety measures were trialled for the first time in our history.

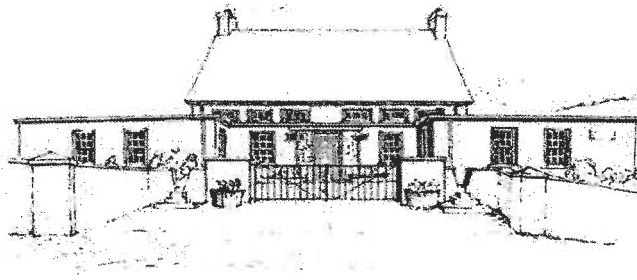
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Mission Statement

Gurraneasig National School is a Catholic School committed to and dedicated to the education and formation of its students.

Religious education is provided for the pupils in accordance with the doctrine and tradition of the Catholic Church. A spirit of mutual respect is promoted within the school community. Pupils are drawn by example and taught to appreciate and respect people of different religious affiliations and of different nationalities. (We teach each child to tolerate and respect other faiths and religions.)

The school strives to create a happy and positive working environment for pupils, staff and the general school community.

The teachers aim at making the school a centre of excellence in which high professional standards are maintained and where children learn in a happy and safe environment.

Close contact is maintained between school and home. Parents and teachers support one another and collaborate with one another as partners in helping the young pupils to reach the fullness of their potential at different stages.

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School Ethos

We believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We value and appreciate the contribution of each member of the school community including children, staff, parents and management.

We endeavour to work in a friendly, relaxed environment in which children can happily perform to the maximum of their abilities, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives encouraging them to become lifelong learners and successful citizens in an ever changing and evolving society.

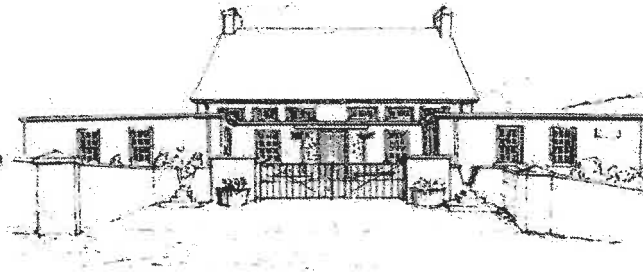
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Staff

(Teaching staff listed in terms of Seniority)

Principal: Ms.Maeve Tighe

Senior Room Teacher: Mr.Conor Murray (Deputy Principal)

Middle Room Teacher: Ms.Niamh McGrath

Support Teacher (Job Sharing): Ms.Elaine Byrne (AP11)

Support Teacher (Job Sharing): Ms. Rose O'Donovan

Junior Room Teacher: Ms. Laura White

SNA: Mrs. Frances Harrington

Secretary: Mrs. Ursula McCloskey

Board of Management

Chairperson: Mrs. Mary O'Driscoll

Patron's Nominee: Mr. John Lordan

Staff Nominee: Ms. Niamh McGrath

Principal & Secretary: Ms. Maeve Tighe

Parents Representatives: Mrs. Lucie Green & Mr. Jeff Cochrane

Community Representatives: Mrs. Ann Madden & Mr. Hugh Barry

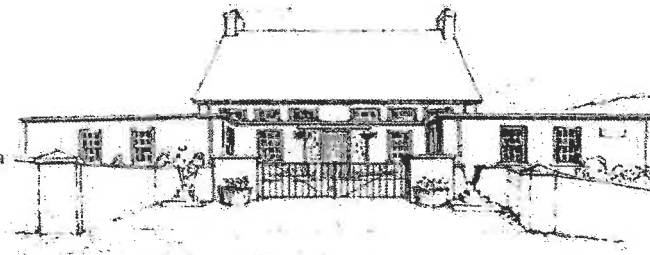
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School Timetable:

Classes commence at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 3:10pm (Infant classes finish at 2:10pm.).

Break time begins at 11.00 a.m. and ends at 11.10 a.m.

Lunchtime begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 1.30p.m.

Children eat their lunch in the class for 10 minutes before break-time, whilst finishing their work or watching an educational video appropriately complimenting their class work.

If weather conditions do not allow for outdoor activities during lunch break - children play board games or watch a movie.

Uniform:

The uniform consists of a red polo shirt, navy trousers/skirt and a navy jumper.

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Calendar of Activities

Staff Meeting - One per month

*Activities may be added or changed as required.

Please note that these activities are subject to change

Autumn Term

Big Beach Clean up

Kilbrittain GAA Skills Training

Maths Week

Debating

Readathon

Halloween Dress-up

RSA Campaign

First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass

Shoe Box Appeal

Christmas Performances

Spring Term

Parent Teacher Meetings

Enrolment Day

Screening Tests

Kilbrittain GAA Skills Training

Credit Union Quiz

First Confession

Confirmation

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World Book Day
Seachtain na Gaeilge
Tennis
Soccer
Table Tennis

Summer Term
Surfing
GAA - Sciath Na Scol (West Cork)
Parent Workshops
Active School Week
Languages for All Programme
Zumba
Standardised Tests
End of school year reports
School Tours
Cork City (Primary) Sports
Class Graduation & Sports Night
First Holy Communion
Information meeting for new parents

