



Ard Rí Community National School

Ard Rí C.N.S, Balreask Old, Navan, Co. Meath.
Principal: Darragh Roe
Roll No 20352T



Newsletter November 2025

Community National Schools (CNS) are state, co-educational, multi-denominational primary schools underpinned by the core values of **excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect**. They give equal opportunities to all children in the communities they serve and strive to provide high quality education through respectful, positive, supportive and responsive learning environments. They are managed by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs).

The Department of Education and Youth is asking Parents and guardians of children currently attending primary school to 'Have Your Say' in a short but important **Patronage Survey** regarding your local primary school.

[Primary School Survey \(click here\)](#)

The survey runs until the **16 December 2025**.

The survey asks a small number of questions:

- 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?

There are currently 33 Community National Schools in Ireland. Families from Navan are very lucky to have the option to send their children to a Community National School. 84.5% of schools in Ireland are denominational (religious). Not every community has a Community National School in their area. The data collected from this survey will be used to plan for the provision of Community National Schools into the future.

Please complete this very short survey and help shape the future of primary school education.

All Aboard! Internet and Technology Use Agreement

There is a strong global trend towards regulating young people's access to smartphones and social media due to rising concerns about wellbeing and online risks. Very recently, celebrities like Robbie Williams have spoken out about delaying phone and social media use for children, while governments such as Australia are introducing new laws to restrict under-16s from using major social media platforms.

These developments are fuelling a broader public discussion about digital addiction, mental health, privacy and how best to protect young people online.

Here in our school, a committee of management, staff, parents and pupils met last May to review these issues. Their findings were clear: while the online world offers many opportunities, it also brings significant risks. Our **"All Aboard!" Internet and Technology Use Agreement** is a three-year plan designed to teach children about online safety and help keep them safe as they navigate the digital world.

You will receive our **"All Aboard!" Internet and Technology Use Agreement** booklet in your child's homework folder. This is a bespoke plan designed specifically for Ard Rí. We encourage all families to take a few minutes to read and become familiar with the document. In November 2024, **88% of families with children in Junior Infants to 2nd Class** committed to keeping their child's primary school years **smartphone, social media and online-gaming free**. This week, we will refresh this commitment with all families from Junior Infants to 3rd Class and by **2028** this agreement will extend to the **entire school community**.

[All Aboard! Internet and Technology Use Agreement \(click here\)](#)

Parents will also receive guidance on **best practices for co-managing devices at home**, including using devices in **open spaces where supervision is possible**, setting **daily screen-time limits** and ensuring **no screen use in bedrooms** (including TV). These steps help parents monitor and support their children's online activity in a safe and healthy way.

This is a **voluntary agreement** and we fully respect each family's right to make their own decisions. While we cannot enforce this at home, please know that as a school, we regularly deal with the **consequences of online activity**—from exposure to harmful content and online risks to early signs of device addiction. This is a serious concern, but as a **community, we are stronger together** in supporting our children's wellbeing and safety online.

Tracksuit days: for the remainder of Term 1 have been updated as follows:

Class	Days
Junior Infants	Tuesday and Thursday
Senior Infants	Tuesday and Thursday
1st Class	Monday and Thursday
2nd Class	Monday and Wednesday
3rd Class	Wednesday and Friday
4th Class	Monday and Friday
5th Class	Tuesday and Friday
6th Class	Tuesday and Thursday

Party Invitations & Birthday Treats

We'd like to remind parents of two important school policies that help us protect teaching time and ensure a positive, inclusive atmosphere for all children.

Party Invitations: Please note that children may ***not*** distribute party invitations in school. When invitations are handed out in class, it can take up valuable teaching time and more importantly, can cause upset for children who may not receive an invite. We appreciate your support in sharing invitations outside of the school day.

Birthday Treats: We also ask that parents do not send in sweets, cakes or treats for birthdays. As part of our Healthy Eating Policy and with up to 25 children in a class this would effectively lead to 25 "mini-parties" a year, which isn't manageable and goes against our healthy school approach.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a happy, healthy learning environment for all.