

OUR SCHOOL ➤

St Patrick's Boys National School, Gardiner's Hill, Cork

Our pupils: 215 boys from first to sixth class.

Our staff: We have a very dedicated staff made up of our principal Joseph McCarthy, secretary Sandra O'Callaghan, 22 teaching staff, seven Special Need Assistants, one Home School Community Links person, one School Completion Programme Officer and five Ancillary staff.

Our history: On September 13, 1841, St Patrick's school opened at St Luke's Cross with 174 boys and 126 girls on the roll book.

The boys' school moved to the present site on Gardiner's Hill on November 29, 1937. This November, we will celebrate 75 years at our current site on Gardiner's Hill with a variety of different events. Find out more about our plans on our website www.stpatrickboys.net.

Our mission: We seek to foster the intellectual, spiritual and personal development of all students within a supportive yet challenging environment. The school respects cultural diversity and strives to promote equality and to provide an environment where all have the freedom and opportunity to achieve their full potential. Our school motto is: "Ó gach duine a dhícheall" (From each person, their best). Under the DEIS scheme, the school provides a pupil-teacher ratio of 20:1 in the first and second classes and 24:1 in the third to sixth classes.

Our achievements: We take part in the Cór Fhéile annually and our third class recently staged a production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. We have also taken part in the Cannes-Do Film Festival. Our sixth class pupils have secured numerous scholarships to surrounding secondary schools.

In sport, we won the Sciath na Scol Roinn F Peil in 2010 and have also had success in the Northside Swimming Gala and annual Cork City Schools Sports.

We have an active parents' group and St Patrick's Boys NS also has a thriving after-schools facility.

Our pupils care for a cultivated garden and wormery. This year, they raised €400 for the charity Bóthar, helping to send an in-kid dairy goat and 50 fish to Africa.

Famous past-pupils: Prestigious positions such as professorships at UCC (Séan Teegan, Tadhg Ó Ciardha), world famous writers (Frank O'Connor), artists (Séamus Murphy) and sporting superstars (Dónal Linehan, Tomás O'Leary) come from our ranks.

What's so great about our school?

ANTHONY MCGUCKIN, from Mr Jeffers' fifth class: I really like this school because there is a low number of pupils in every class so that the teachers have more time to help us.

I am now in fifth class and I have enjoyed every single year that I have been here. Every student that has been in this school has experienced the most fantastic activities!

I mainly like St Patrick's because of its fantastic facilities such as: a new resource building, an interactive whiteboard in every room, a fantastic ICT room, two big yards- one for the older students and one for the younger students, homework club for doing your homework, after school and much more.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this and anybody that comes to this school after me I hope that he enjoys it as much as I did.

Read more about what pupils think of life at St Patrick's Boys NS on page eight.



The boys from Mr O'Connell's fourth class, with their painted faces, doing their version of the Maori war dance.



Above, Rafue Karim Islam and Joel O'Connell, third class pupils taking part in the 'Literacy Lift-Off' programme; and right, Liam and Cian Moynihan, with Jonathan O'Sullivan and Gary McCarthy and Miss Crow, the scarecrow in the school vegetable garden.



Pupils from first class brushing up on their Irish dancing skills at St Patrick's Boys NS.