



Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa, Urlingford N.S.

CHOIR POLICY

Composition of the School Choir

The School Choir is composed of children from Third to Sixth Class, who pass a simple singing test. It is the aim of the school to have as many children as possible participate in the choir.

Children from the older class may be asked to sing in the 'Soprano Line' which helps lead the choir during performance.

All children who pass the test are expected to take part in the choir. Children are only excused from the choir for express reasons (e.g. Religious Beliefs). For a child to be excused from the choir, school agreement with the parents of the child is required.

It is important to note that all children receive a full and balanced music curriculum in their classes and that the choir is an extra supplementary element of a child's music curriculum.

Exclusion from the Choir

In the case of a child being consistently troublesome or interruptive at choir, that child may be asked to leave the choir. This is a measure of last resort, which will only be undertaken after all other disciplinary measures, including consultation with parents, have been exhausted.

Testing for the Choir

Testing for the choir takes place in the first half term (September-October) each year. All children in Third Class are tested using a very simple aural singing test. Children are given multiple chances to prove their ability to sing with the choir.

Children from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes who were not in the choir the previous year may re-audition at this time also, if they wish to.

Children may also be re-auditioned during the year at the (written) request of their parents.

Parents will be informed one week beforehand of the dates of testing. This is to enable children to prepare and for parents to address any concerns they may have.



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Participation

The choir performs at various times of the year as listed below:

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion (Annually)

The Sacrament of Confirmation (Biannually)

Christmas Carol Service (Annually)

School Masses (1-2 times a year annually)

Peace Proms (First Participation in 2014)

Other Events (If a suitable request is received)

Practice Times:

As the majority of the Choir Performances are religiously based, the choir generally practice from 12.05-12.30pm on Friday, to coincide with R.E. time.

In the run up to a performance/event, the choir practice every day.

Choir Treats

The children in the choir generally receive a treat at Communion and Confirmation time to thank them for giving of their time. These treats will be given on the day of Communion and Confirmation only.

Children not in the Choir

Children not in the choir are generally in their own classrooms, where their teacher arranges tasks for them. It is general practice that these tasks are more fun based. At times, the children may be gathered together to participate in activities related to the upcoming event. (e.g. providing artwork, practice for readings, decorating the church etc.)



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The children not in the choir are included as far as possible. It has been and will continue to be the custom of the school to involve these children in other ways. This includes reading at School Masses and the Carol Service and being altar servers at School Masses and First Communion.

In addition to this the school will undertake to make sure that children feel included in the following ways. Making sure that all the children sit together for school Masses. Including extra Traditional Carols for all children to sing during the Carol Service. Asking non-choir children to be ushers at Communion and Confirmation. Getting the children not in the choir to perform one item at the annual Carol Service, (e.g. Choral Verse/Poetry Recital etc.)

It is to be noted that all children who participate in the Communion and Confirmation Services, (choir, altar servers, readers, ushers) receive a treat for giving of their time.

For general inclusion, the words of all hymns for First Communion, Confirmation and the Carol Service are included in booklets or on a sheet to encourage all of the congregation to join in the singing at these occasions.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on October 9th 2013