

EAPRIL 2026

24-26 NOVEMBER
CORK, IRELAND

SCHOOL VISITS

Monday 23 November 2026

EAPRIL 2026 is jointly organised by:



Programme

- **8:30 – 9:30:** Registration + Introduction by speakers (Edmond Hussey, Director of the Cork Education Support Centre) at Clayton Hotel Silver Springs
- **9:30 – 10:00:** Bus transport to schools
- **10:00 – 12:15:** School programme (Explanation of the school vision, tour of the school building, opportunity to talk with primary school teachers, classroom visits)
- **12:00:** Bus transport back to Clayton Hotel Silver Springs

OPTION 1: Kindergarten



The Baby Hub

Radharc an Bhaile Bandon, Bandon, Cork, Ireland

<https://care-a-lot-childcare.ie/> & <https://www.instagram.com/thebabyhubbandon/>

The Baby Hub Bandon is a newly opened full day care centre on the outskirts of Bandon, Co. Cork for children aged 1 to 3. Caring for this particular age group is a new business model for childcare, one of the first in Ireland.

The Baby Hub is connected with Care-A-Lot Childcare, whose approach emphasises high-quality, child-centred care in a “home from home” setting. The focus is on creating a safe and welcoming environment where each child is encouraged to express their individuality while developing socially, emotionally and cognitively through play and everyday learning experiences.

Director Averil Sheehan: “I’ve been working in the childcare world for 23 years. For the past 18 of those, I’ve proudly been the Director of Care A Lot Child Care in Upton. I set up my business here because I wanted to create something small, homely, warm, and welcoming — a place where every child would come bouncing through the door in the morning, happy and excited to be here. I studied Early Childhood Care and Education (Fetac Level 6).”

Director Emma Lovell: “I am a Bandon native with over 12 years of experience in childcare. I graduated in 2016 from Munster Technological University (MTU) with a BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care. Since then, I’ve had the privilege of working with Averil and the team at Care-A-Lot Childcare, where I began as an educator and now serve as manager. Over the years, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the vital role that early education plays in shaping children’s development.”

OPTION 2: Primary schools



Gaelscoil Na Dúglaise

Willow Pk Rd, S Douglas Rd, Ballinlough, Cork, Ireland

<https://gaelscoilnaduglaise.ie/>

Gaelscoil na Dúglaise is a state-funded, co-educational Catholic primary school for children aged 4–12, located in Ballinlough, Cork. The school operates under the patronage of the Bishop of Cork and Ross, Dr Fintan Gavin, and welcomes more than 400 pupils.

For almost 40 years, the school has provided education through the medium of Irish (Gaeilge), promoting bilingualism and fostering an appreciation of Irish language, culture, and heritage. Irish is the primary language of communication throughout the school community, creating an environment in which pupils, staff, parents, and management contribute to a vibrant Irish-speaking culture.

Guided by its motto, *Doras Feasa Fiafraí* (“An enquiring mind is the door to knowledge”), the school nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning. Gaelscoil na Dúglaise strives to provide a positive, secure, and inclusive environment where every child can develop to their full potential linguistically, academically, socially, physically, creatively, spiritually, and morally.

The school is committed to inclusive education and provides programmes for pupils with additional educational needs. Alongside mainstream classes, it has two dedicated autism classes for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, ensuring that all pupils receive the support they need to thrive.

A strong emphasis is placed on pupil well-being, equality, and participation. All children are encouraged to engage in a range of activities. The school also values close collaboration with parents through home school links and participation in ‘Cumann na dTuismitheoirí’ (the Parents’ Association) and is particularly proud of its collaborative school community.

The school climate reflects the prevailing Catholic values of the school where the self esteem of all members of the school community is enhanced; the children are encouraged to respect other people and their property and where they will develop a sense of individual responsibility.



Scoil Íosagáin Farranree

Knockpogue Avenue, Cork, Ireland

<https://www.scoiliosagainfarranree.ie>

Scoil Íosagáin is a state-funded Catholic boys DEIS primary school in Farranree, Cork with 222 pupils aged 4–12. The DEIS is the Department of Education programme Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. DEIS schools serve communities at risk of educational disadvantage and receive additional supports, which can include smaller classes, extra teaching posts and funding for books and meals.

Scoil Íosagáin places a strong emphasis on a balanced curriculum that foregrounds environmental awareness, numeracy and literacy, with dedicated programmes in Green Schools, Maths and Reading. Learning is underpinned by a hands-on Confucius philosophy – “I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand” – encouraging pupils to engage actively with material and develop practical skills alongside academic knowledge.

Beyond the classroom, the school offers a rich programme of extra-curricular activities. Pupils can take part in music sessions covering traditional Irish instruments, join the local Na Piarsaigh GAA club, compete in a quiz team or chess and explore a range of creative projects such as the Gamelan and STEM outings. The campus includes a multipurpose Hall available for community hire, a boardroom for meetings and a well-maintained outdoor area that supports the school’s Green Flag achievements and regular Walk-on-Wednesday initiatives, fostering both community spirit and healthy habits.

The school provides their pupils with ample opportunity to reach their potential along each stage of their development and provides encouragement where it is needed. All this work is done in a spirit of cooperation among pupils, staff and parents makes this school a very happy place for all members of our school community.



Scoil Aiséirí Chríost

Knockpogue Ave, Farranree, Cork, Ireland

<https://scoilaiseirichriost.com/>

Scoil Aiséirí Chríost is a girls' primary school located in Farranree on the north side of Cork City. Founded in 1959 by the Presentation Sisters, the school has a strong community focus and aims to provide a holistic education in which each child is supported to develop academically, socially and personally.

The school is part of Ireland's DEIS programme and currently has around 230 pupils. It offers a broad range of initiatives, including an Early Start preschool programme, breakfast and homework clubs, play therapy, Green Schools and Active Schools activities, science initiatives, and links with the UCC Access Programme.

Scoil Aiséirí Chríost also places emphasis on learning beyond the traditional classroom. Its facilities include an outdoor learning area, sensory garden and sensory pathway, which are used to support active and inclusive learning.

Principal Rachel Uí Fhlannabhra: "I am privileged to lead a team of very talented and dedicated teachers, special needs assistants and ancillary staff. This whole Team approach is very rewarding and beneficial for staff and pupils alike within the school setting. Here in Scoil Aiséirí Chríost we are very proud of our school, our pupils and the generous and supportive community of which we are part. We strive at all times to ensure that each child in our care is cherished and supported in every way to ensure they achieve their full potential. Our mission statement is, "To cherish the children in our care, to celebrate their uniqueness and to provide a holistic education enabling them to lead fulfilling and happy lives"."

Scoil Aiséirí Chríost first opened its doors to the children of Farranree in June 1959. The school hall was built in 1960. The school originally catered for both boys and girls. In 1959 424 pupils were on roll with 9 classes of girls and 4 classes of boys. Scoil Íosagáin was built in 1966 and the boys transferred to the new boys school. In 1967 Scoil Aiséirí Chríost was divided into a Junior and Senior school. In 1979 the Junior and Senior schools became two separate full range primary school called Scoil A and Scoil B. In 1995 Scoil Aiséirí Chríost opened an Early Start Pre School catering for both boys and girls. In 1996 Scoil A and Scoil B amalgamated with Sr. Perpetua O' Mahony as principal.

OPTION 3: Post-primary (secondary) school



Christian Brothers College

Sidney Hill, Wellington Road, Cork, Ireland

<https://www.cbccork.ie>

Christian Brothers College is a fee paying Catholic secondary school for boys aged 12–18 located in Cork. The college operates as a part of the network of almost 100 Edmund Rice Schools Trust in Ireland and has over 900 students.

Students follow a three-year programme of studies at Junior Cycle (ages around 12/13–15), which lays the foundation for a six-year Senior Cycle (ages around 15–18).

While firmly rooted in its Christian traditions, the Christian Brothers College community strives to allow each individual student to grow and develop, and to ensure that the education it gives is suited to each generation of boys. Christian Brothers College is committed to the transmission of Catholic values that inform every relationship in the college. These relationships are defined by a culture of respect; respect for oneself and respect for others, and it is these principles that underpin the positive school experience and unparalleled success our students enjoy.

Christian Brothers College Cork is committed to providing holistic education that goes beyond the classroom. Their students are exposed to a wide range of extracurricular activities that help them develop their skills and interests, from sports to music, drama to debating.

Admission to the Secondary College is guaranteed to all pupils of Christian Brothers College Preparatory School. Most students admitted live in the locality of the school, have attended primary schools that traditionally send pupils to the Secondary College, or have strong family links to Christian Brothers College. Admission is not based on any entrance exam or aptitude test.



Coláiste Éamann Rís

St Patrick's Rd, Turners Cross, Cork, Ireland

<https://cercork.ie/>

Coláiste Éamann Rís is classified as a mixed secondary school, located in Cork City and currently has approximately 760 students. It also has a long history: the school traces its origins to 1828 and became Coláiste Éamann Rís in 2019 when it transitioned to co-education.

Rooted in the Edmund Rice tradition, the school places strong emphasis on academic achievement, inclusion, wellbeing and the personal development of every student. Its motto, Uaisleacht, reflects values of strength of character, kindness and service to others.

As a DEIS school, Coláiste Éamann Rís is committed to equality of opportunity and to creating a supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive. The school offers Junior Cycle, Transition Year and Senior Cycle programmes, alongside a broad range of extracurricular and student leadership opportunities. A particular feature of its approach is the strong pastoral support provided to students, including daily contact with class tutors to support their social, emotional and academic development.

Principal Aaron Wolfe: "Coláiste Éamann Rís embodies the spirit of Uaisleacht, a Gaelic word signifying nobility, gentility, and service to others. This ethos drives our commitment to nurturing each student's unique potential. We foster a vibrant, supportive community where high expectations and core values of mutual respect, integrity, and positive relationships are paramount. Our dedicated staff provides a comprehensive education that balances academic excellence with personal growth. Through innovative teaching practices, engaging extracurricular activities, and a strong focus on community involvement, we inspire our students to reach their full potential.

The Department of Education's 2024 whole-school inspection report on our school recognised our excellent classroom management, exceptional atmosphere, highly effective teaching staff, and the extraordinary successes achieved by our staff and students.

We believe in the power of collaboration between the school, students, and families. By working together, we can create an environment that promotes academic success, personal development, and social responsibility."