

Science in Action for Infant Learning (SAIL)



Dear school community member,

We are writing to you to inform you about a very exciting project which is taking place in a class (es) in your school. The Project is called *Science in Action for Infant Learning (SAIL)* and as you can probably guess, it has to do with Science. The project is also about embodied cognition which involves pupils using their bodies to help them learn about Science concepts and skills.

Last summer, Dr Cliona Murphy and Dr John White (Dublin City University) selected your school specifically for this project and spoke to your school principal about this exciting opportunity. Only four schools nationwide were selected (we have listed them below), so one of the first things we wish to do is congratulate your school on being chosen for the project and also to thank them for accepting the invitation to participate.

The project is exciting because it involves thinking about how we learn. It offers a somewhat new and fresh way to learn. In particular, we want to make learning about Science an active, enjoyable and engaging experience. To do this, we are examining how movement can help us learn. We are also looking at other ways which help pupils learn such as smelling, tasting, touching, observing, dramatising and thinking about how they feel. As you can probably guess, a big emphasis in the work is on pupils being active and giving them as varied a learning experience as possible.





We have started working with teacher (s) from your school, and some of the comments from them are very encouraging. We would like to thank and acknowledge all their work.

In the coming weeks and months, the team from DCU will also be working with parents and pupils to develop the ways in which embodied cognition can help learning. So, if you're a parent, there's lots to look forward to! You may soon be thinking (and acting!) more differently when it comes to learning and education! Indeed, the next time you are helping your child with his/ her homework, see

if you can build any actions / acting into the work. You might also like to visit our [website](#), which is under continuous development as the project progresses.

Every good wish – and stay active!

John and Cliona

Project Schools:

Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover, Duleek, Co. Meath.

St Patrick's and St Brigid's, Primary School, Bóthar Brugha, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

St Francis Junior NS, Priorswood, Coolock, Dublin 17.

St Patrick's NS, Stackallen, Navan, Co. Meath.