

## Science in Action Focus Group for Senior Infants

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We hope you and all your family are keeping well. You may be aware that your child's class teacher is currently working on a project called Science in Action for Infant Learning. This project explores the use of embodied cognition, to support your child's learning in Science.

**Embodied Cognition (EC)** is best defined as actions which assist the brain's cognitive processing as our thoughts are shaped by the types of perceptual and motor experiences we have as we interact each day with the world. The overall aims of this project are to:

1. investigate pupils', teachers and parents' perceptions of the educational value of applying embodied cognition approaches to learning Science.
2. investigate pupils, teachers and parents' experiences of applying embodied cognition approaches to learning science (e.g. what was easy / difficult / enjoyable?)

Accordingly, we plan to undertake some research. We hope to undertake a focus group with pupils in your child's class. The focus group will be made up of 5 children from your child's class. It will last approximately 30 minutes. The purpose of this focus group is to explore your child's experiences and perspectives of using embodied cognition to learn Science. We plan to undertake the focus group during the month of June, 2022.

Please visit the school's website [www.stfrancisjs.com](http://www.stfrancisjs.com) → School Year 2021-2022 → Activities/current Events for a copy of the research's plain language statement. You will also see a copy of a child assent form, a child plain language statement and the questions which will guide the focus group. Your child's teacher will hand out a copy to each child. **If you wish for your child to engage in the focus group which will take place in your child's school, during school time, we would be grateful if you could complete the consent form and return it to your child's teacher by Friday 17th June.** Your child will receive a hard copy of the consent form from his / her class teacher. From the consenting forms we receive, we will randomly select five children from your child's class to participate in the focus group. Your child's teacher and principal are fully briefed on what the focus group will involve. Please be advised that there is no obligation on your child to participate in this focus group.

Thanking you sincerely,

**John White (DCU) and Cliona Murphy (DCU)**