

PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: 26th May, 2026 |

Attendance

In person: Joanne, Sarah, Elaine, Ivana, Pauline, Kelda, Raymond,

Online: Additional PTA members joined remotely

1. Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were not yet finalised. They will be written up and circulated after this meeting.

2. School Council Update

No update from the school council this month.

3. Financial Report (Ivana)

Statement as of 5 May (report currently one month behind):

- Opening balance: €6,026.41
- One transaction: €220 lodged from March disco coin exchange
- Balance forward: €6,246.41
- Petty cash: should hold €157.27 (not counted this cycle)
- Disco float (standing): €195
- Plant sale proceeds: €1,303.20 raised in total

Outstanding amounts owed to the school (e.g. sports day costs) are being compiled into a list by Noel, to be resolved within the next 1–2 weeks.

4. Family Fun Day (Ivana)

Enough volunteers confirmed to proceed, though more are welcome so shifts can be split in half rather than run as full-day commitments.

- Approx. 12 adult volunteers plus ~6 past students helping
- Drinks and popcorn will not be offered this year
- Baked goods donations are uncertain - quantity not yet known
- Prizes for the scavenger hunt and other games are fully sorted
- A volunteer call-out is needed for Sunday setup from ~12pm; Raymond to post this on Dojo

Ivana noted this fundraiser has felt like a largely solo effort this year, with less advance support from the wider PTA team than in past fundraisers. The group acknowledged that May/June is an unusually busy period for families (sports, dance, and gymnastics events all cluster around this time), which limits availability. The group agreed to revisit planning timelines and how to build a support team further in advance for next year.

5. Parent Rep Coordinators Update

Nothing new to report.

6. Garden Project – Renewal Plan (Susanna)

Proposal to renew the garden project for next year on the same structure: 7 sessions per class, running September–November and March–June.

- This year's plant sale raised approximately €1,100–€1,170+
- Proposal: retain these funds in the PTA account to fund the garden project for the next few years (average annual spend €300–400), reducing the need for a dedicated garden fundraiser
- Approx. €400 currently held for garden petty cash (compost, manure, repairs, recipe ingredients)
- Final sessions begin 9 June: quiz/treasure-hunt format with junior and senior leagues; awards will be class-based (passed on year to year), not individual; wooden apple prizes under consideration
- A few scheduling clashes with other school events are being resolved with teachers
- Children may harvest garden potatoes ahead of the 6th class event (potato salad planned)
- Summer volunteer watering rota: 4 dates set (2 in July, 2 in August); Raymond confirmed the senior class summer programme can help with greenhouse watering

7. Summer Camp (Susanna)

Capacity: maximum 20 places; minimum ~15–16 needed for the camp to proceed.

- Current sign-ups: very low (roughly 2–3 confirmed interest, no firm bookings)
- Posters distributed to some local schools (Gorey Community School, Educate Together); reach into other schools uncertain
- Some parents may be delaying bookings until camp dates are confirmed, due to clashes with other clubs/activities
- Further advertising planned via PTA and “Love Gorey” community Facebook pages

8. Sports Day Medals / Prizes

Junior sports day: Tuesday 16 June, 11:00–13:00. Senior sports day: Wednesday 17 June, 11:00–13:30. Rain backup date: Friday 19 June.

Two options were discussed:

- Traditional metal medals (~€1 each)
- New sustainable option: a 3D-printed interlocking bracelet / fidget-spinner piece (50 cents each), branded “Educate Together 2026,” designed so each child collects one piece per year, building a complete set by 6th class

Discussion points: the multi-year jigsaw concept creates a long-term commitment that would be difficult to change later; traditional medals have lost novelty since children receive one every year regardless of achievement.

Decision: the group agreed to proceed with the fidget-spinner option (with a ribbon added, so children can wear them) for this year, for approximately 370 children.

9. 6th Class Event

Planning is underway and more volunteers needed - reach out via the class rep groups.

10. Senior Infants Class Split

Some questions were raised by concerned parents about the class split coming in September 2027. Raymond answered all questions and addressed concerns. Parents on the committee who had been in a similar situation previously reassured them that transition had been manageable in their experience.

11. School Dog

Fresh Today have generously agreed to sponsor the cost for a therapy/assistance dog for the school to support student wellbeing. Further updates will be given on this when more is known in the coming academic year.

12. Winter Raffle

Making requests for sponsored prizes from local businesses and individuals for the Winter Raffle is important, as many have a quota that can be reached early in the school year. Sarah and Elaine to follow up with Pauline to plan.

13. AOB

None

8. Date of next meeting

September 17th, 2026