

A longitudinal study exploring children's experiences of primary schools is being conducted by UCD School of Education. Led by Professor Dymphna Devine and Assistant Professor Jennifer Symonds, and funded by the NCCA, the study will follow 4000 children over a 6 year period, as they transition into, through and out of primary school. Divided into two age cohorts – those in second class and those in their final year of pre-school in 2019, the study will follow the children's progress throughout their primary schooling.

Endorsed by the executive of the INTO, this is a landmark study nationally and internationally. For the first time, it will provide an overview of what is taking place in our primary schools in Ireland and explore in depth how children, teachers, school principals and parents (and grandparents!) co-act with and experience the system, at a time of significant social change. It will explore issues related to children's learning, their rights and well-being, engagement, diversities and belonging, as well as the factors that influence this in their homes, their local communities, in their classrooms and in their schools.

The study represents the first systematic attempt to track the same group of children from pre-school into primary and from primary into secondary school, providing detailed analysis and understanding of their everyday school lives and how this influences how they think and learn. It will fill key information gaps currently in our knowledge of the workings of the primary school system, prioritizing children's voices and the richness of the insights they can bring.

Over time CSL will provide us with key insights into promising practices in our primary school system, as well as those that may need to change. Fundamentally it will facilitate national curricular and policy planning, informed by a rich evidence located in the Irish context. The funding and vision of the project is testament to recognition of the centrality of children's educational experiences not only to their present lived experiences as children, but also their capacities as they grow and mature in later years. For further details please contact: csl@ucd.ie