

“Lessons in Parenting”



Our ideas – their lives!

Our ideas

- Start from where we are
- What we like
- What we do best
- They learn from our example
- Encourage and support
- Make sacrifices
- Praise and enjoy



A Career in Music?



We approached a Suzuki Violin teacher for our daughter to start class with her, she was aged three.

The teacher told us that unfortunately her class was full up, and that she would be too old for next year!

We managed to get her into a class with another Suzuki teacher and she flourished there

She also started piano lessons and singing lessons and joined the junior choir in which her mother sang in the senior choir

There was the usual ferrying to and fro to classes, theory classes, competitions, shows etc.



A Sea Change



- At about age 14-15 with 11 to 12 years of concentrated music behind her Sinéad told us she wasn't interested in pursuing a career in music.
- She gradually dropped out of all the various strands but kept up her involvement in choir for a few more years.

Leaving Certificate & College



- Gradually work for Leaving Certificate took over and Sinéad finished in the Community School and went to College.
- At some point in first year in College she announced that she was taking up rugby.
- Where did this come from?
- She started playing with the local Ashbourne Ladies Team and had two good seasons with them culminating in an All-Ireland Plate win. (P.S. Rugby training on same night as choir practice!)
- She has never looked back and now plays regularly with the Trinity Ladies team since the demise of the team in Ashbourne.

Messages from Research



- Research has looked at: “the reality of activating emotional resources in supporting children’s schooling “ in order to reproduce educational advantage.
- “Care and love have not been central concepts in educational debates..”
- “The educational care work observed in their research suggests a wide range of ways of being caring, and doing care, including listening to children, guiding and making choices about schools and subjects, supporting children through assessments, homework support, meeting teachers, planning and organising meetings and transporting children to educational activities outside of school time.”

Maeve O’Brien: “Affective Equality”

The Messages



- **Much as you might like to, you cannot live their lives for them**
- **All the time and years invested in music can never be discounted or undervalued**
- **Even at the level of discipline and ‘learning to learn’ the formation was invaluable and the appreciation of music is there to a high degree**
- **The most important ingredient throughout is constant support and encouragement, i.e. demonstration and practical application of love**

My Best Teacher



- As a geography teacher he brought the subject to life.
- He'd treat me in exactly the same way he treated others in the class.
- When you're young, it's important to have people around you who don't think you're mad to have the dreams you have.
- I'm now doing something that I love and I've got him to thank for his honesty.
- You are entering a world you know nothing about and somebody takes a personal interest in you it is a tremendous help

My Best Teacher



- He managed to bring about a mind shift in us dogged children
- She tried to get the best out of you as an individual rather than impose a rigid system of her own
- What helped was that the teacher listened to me. He was welcoming and friendly.
- The most important thing he taught us was that not everything was as it seems.
- If we weren't trying our hardest, there was this feeling that we'd let him down
- She had a reputation for being fair

My Best Teacher



- He had a terrific sense of humour and a mischievous laugh
- He was the only one I could turn to
- He definitely gave me lots of encouragement
- The experience was unbelievable, I owe a lot to him
- He challenged us and encouraged independent thought
- I was lucky to have had such a good teacher with a fantastic sense of humour

Where are the messages for Schools?



- Honest & Fair
- Personal Interest
- Sense of humour
- Available as a confidant
- Encouraging
- Get the best out of you
- Good listener, friendly and welcoming
- Instill a passion for the subject

ACCS & PACCS



- Work at school, regional and national level to support schools
- Apply the messages from schools to our own relationship at all levels
- Honest attempts to improve relationships at school level
- Work with NPCpp and through PPEF

