



## The Choral Department

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30<sup>th</sup> of January 2026

Dear Raymond Ryan,

I am Director of the Palestrina Choir and the Girls' Cathedral Choir at St Mary's Cathedral and at this time of year I go into a number of schools throughout Dublin to do a music aptitude assessment.

We are keen to come to St Peter's National School and I am wondering if you would consider letting one of our staff members come to look for potential Choristers for the Palestrina Choir and the Girls' Choir?

As in previous years, this is what is involved:

- I give the Edwin Gordon (<https://giml.org/aboutgiml/gordon/>) music aptitude tests to first class girls and boys. This test is able to show us who is musical, regardless of whether they have had any musical training or not. It takes 25-30 minutes to administer and involves children filling in if short melodies or short rhythms are the same or different.
- I then give the results back to the school so a school knows which children have presented with good musical aptitude.
- I also send in letters to Parents of those in the top 30% of results. This letter says they have good musical aptitude and invites them to sign up for a vocal audition, should they so wish.

I am hoping very much that this is something that you might want for your students and, if so, I can offer a number of mornings over the next month and a half so please let us know if there is a day you are available.

With my very best wishes,

Blánaid Murphy

Director of Choral Music, St Mary's Cathedral