

# *St. John of God Primary School*



## *Information Booklet*



**Dear Parents,**

Your daughter is enrolled at St. John of God Primary School and we extend to her a big “Céad Míle Fáilte”. We hope that she will be very happy in our school and that she will grow to her full potential while with us.

To you parents, we say thank you for entrusting your daughter to us and we assure you, not only of quality care, but of providing her with many educational opportunities.

This little booklet has been prepared to give a brief overview of our school and to answer some of the questions that may arise. For this reason you may wish to file this booklet for future reference.

Yours sincerely,

***Aoife McNicholas***  
**Principal**



## **OUR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

In St. John of God G.N.S. we understand the importance of looking after all aspects of a child's development, while making sure that at the core is care for each girl's wellbeing. If a child is happy coming to school, then they will achieve to the best of their ability and reach their true potential. We provide really high quality teaching using a variety of methodologies taking into account each child's individual learning styles and needs.

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*"There are no strangers in here.  
Just friends you haven't met yet." Roald Dahl*

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We value the individual child; what makes them tick, what helps them learn, what makes them smile. We help them to develop their social skills and their social conscience so they can stand tall in the world and be a positive force for good.

We are an active school, partnering up with other sporting agencies to provide a broad and balanced P.E. curriculum to the children. Participation by all is a key focus and we ensure that break times are as active and as much fun as possible!



We are also very proudly a Creative School and were selected to be part of the pilot project in this exciting initiative. The children's voice is central and the focus is on allowing creativity to flourish through a broad range of mediums like music, art, drama, writing and dance.

We teach the children how to interact with technology in a safe and balanced manner, maximizing the benefits from our digital age while also understanding the need to have tech-free-zones in our lives for greater wellbeing. You can keep up-to-date with all that's happening here on [www.stjohnofgodartane.com](http://www.stjohnofgodartane.com)



**We are a happy school!**





## SCHOOL BUILDING/RESOURCES

St. John of God Primary School opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1968 with 150 pupils. The building consists of 16 bright rooms which surround the administration block and P.E. Hall.



We have a wonderful library, as seen above, which was designed and created by a parent of former pupils, Leo Raftery. This room really captures the imagination and is truly a magical place to be. Each class visits the library at least weekly with their teacher, and our librarian Debbie Doyle helps the children to choose appropriate books for their level of reading.

In addition to this we have:

- ✓ An Aistear Room for developing the children's learning through play,
- ✓ A Play Therapy Room where we provide 1:1 play therapy for children with a qualified play therapist,
- ✓ Resource Rooms for sharing learning resources
- ✓ Parents' Room where the HSCL is based and parent activities take place.



We also have a large playing yard, complete with a brand new astroturf pitch and 60m sprint track. We have recently refurbished our playground and are so lucky to boast a football pitch to the side of the school – an absolute gem of a resource in Dublin!

Sports equipment and playground games are distributed at lunch time to make sure our break-times are active and fun.

## RELATIONSHIPS

While we have wonderful material resources, our greatest resource is our highly dedicated staff. Great emphasis is placed on nurturing a really caring pupil/teacher relationship as we believe children learn best when they feel secure and happy.

Parents are always welcome to meet with their daughter's teacher. **This can be arranged by phoning to make an appointment with the class teacher.** Parent/Teacher meetings are also organised each year. During the first two years at school it will usually be possible to have a word with the teacher when you are collecting your daughter from school.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The school is managed and run by the Board of Management which consists of:

- Chairperson; Brendan Prunty,
- Principal; Aoife McNicholas,
- Teacher nominee; Sinéad Feery,
- Patron's nominee; Fr. Hugh Hanley,
- Parent nominees; Kathy Masterson and Karl Gorman.
- Community nominees; Paddy Carroll and Joe Hill.

Each Board sits for a term of four years. The current Board of Management is a new Board (elected in December 2019) and will sit until 2023.



## **HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON (H.S.C.L.)**

Ms. Nessa Clarke is the H.S.C.L. coordinator in the school. This extra link between the parent and the school is such a valuable asset. The H.S.C.L. organises

- ✓ Activities for parents and parent classes
- ✓ Home visits or meetings in school
- ✓ Activities in their child's class like Maths for Fun/Jewellery making/Literacy for Fun

The main purpose of the H.S.C.L. is to be an extra support dedicated fully to the needs of parents in the school. Nessa can be contacted by any parent throughout the year as needed on 086 0439773 and will always offer a friendly, listening ear and support and advice in whatever way she can.

## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

St. John of God Parents' Association makes an invaluable contribution to the life of the school. Some of their work includes:

- ❖ Organising Fundraising Events
- ❖ Running the School Savings Scheme in association with the local Credit Union
- ❖ Talks for parents on topics of interest
- ❖ Helping the school with social events


It is great fun and very rewarding to be involved with the P.A. and new members are always welcome.

# RULES FOR A HAPPY SCHOOL

**Be Safe – Be Kind – Be Respectful**

**Children can help keep our school a happy and safe place for everyone.**


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Play safely in the yard  
and  
be inclusive of others.




Keep our school neat, tidy  
and litter free.




Wear your full uniform.  
Small stud earrings only.  
No nail varnish. Hair tied  
back to stop the spread of  
head lice.



Be in the line for  
ten to nine!



Walk in the small gate.





The use of mobile phones or  
other devices is not allowed  
in school.

# RULES FOR A HAPPY SCHOOL



**Be Safe – Be Kind – Be Respectful**

**Children can help keep our school a happy and safe place for everyone**



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Be honest and truthful.



Listen to and respect all of our teachers.



Walk safely around the school



Treat everyone with respect at all times.



Do your best everyday

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

- ✓ The school uniform is available to buy in “Lynch’s,” Philipsburgh Avenue, Marino.
- ✓ The uniform consists of a wine crested jumper/cardigan, a wine pinafore/skirt, a white shirt, wine tie, wine, black or white tights/socks and black or wine shoes/boots.
- ✓ The tracksuit is a wine crested jumper, white polo shirt and wine tracksuit bottoms.
- ✓ We ask that the children leave all jewellery at home, except for small stud earrings. This is for safety reasons.
- ✓ No nail varnish or makeup is allowed.
- ✓ Please see the Code of Behaviour for full details.

## **SCHOOL BOOKS**

The school operates a book rental scheme. All books except for workbooks are part of the rental scheme. For Junior Infants, we purchase all the children’s books, workbooks and copies for them. All you need to buy is a schoolbag large enough to hold an A4 folder, a lunchbox, pencils, rubber and crayons (no markers please).

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Free school lunches are provided daily. A menu will be sent home and you can select what you would like your daughter to eat. In line with our Health Eating Policy children are encouraged to eat nutritious foods. A copy of our Healthy Eating Policy is enclosed in this pack. All food waste and cartons are taken home for recycling by the pupils on a daily basis so that parents can monitor what their child is eating.

# THE SCHOOL RUN CHECKLIST

## Parents can help keep school a happy and safe place for everyone

- ☐ Write a note to explain why your child was absent from school.
- ☐ If your child is sick, give us a call that morning and let us know.
- ☐ Car-free zone! Please don't drive in the main gates – it puts all the children at risk!
- ☐ Walk in the side pedestrian gates. It's safer and it gets some of your steps in for the day.
- ☐ Dog Free Zone – Not even little ones, sorry. It's putting the children at risk.
- ☐ Use our Healthy Eating Policy to plan your child's lunch. Or you can avail of our free lunch scheme.



"I find this new road layout a little confusing."



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN  
KEEPING OUR SCHOOL A HAPPY AND SAFE  
PLACE FOR YOUR CHILDREN**

## **SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The school has always placed a high value on ensuring the children are exposed to lots of different types of sport and ways of keeping physically active, fit and healthy. We were awarded an Active School Flag in 2011 and we were awarded the renewal flag this year again. We make sure our PE and Sports provision is balanced between activities that encourage maximum participation and activities that are competitive in nature.



We have forged strong links with outside agencies who bring their expertise to the school including:

- The GAA
- The FAI
- Leinster Rugby
- Swim Ireland
- Badminton Ireland
- Athletics Ireland
- Dublin City Council Sports Section
- Cycling Ireland



## **COMPETITIVE SPORTS**

- ✓ Santry Athletics Team
- ✓ Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Football League
- ✓ Soccer Blitzes
- ✓ Tag Rugby Blitzes



## **SPORT FOR MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION/HEALTHY LIVING**

- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Cycle Right Programme
- ✓ Swimming lessons
- ✓ The Daily Mile
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Gymnastics
- ✓ Orienteering
- ✓ Cooperative Games
- ✓ Sport for All Day
- ✓ Athletics
- ✓ Active Breaktimes

## CREATIVE SCHOOLS PILOT PROJECT

We are among the first schools in Ireland to engage with this exciting new Pilot Project designed to bring creativity and the arts to the fore in education. We have developed an ambitious 4 year plan for developing, promoting and celebrating the Arts in all its various forms. Primarily we will be looking at:

- ✓ Visual Art
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Dance



The plan will see us beginning a Teacher-Artist Partnership from 2019/2020 where an artist will be working directly with some classes and their teacher for a block of time. We will also be incorporating gallery visits, theatre visits and in-school live music and drama experiences for the children.

## **MUSIC/DRAMA**

We have a really vibrant and active school choir, made up of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. The choir performs at events such as:

- The Peace Proms in the RDS with a live orchestra
  - Open Day
  - Confirmation
  - First Communion
  - Carol singing
  - Nativity Play
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- ✓ We are participants in the Artane Band Outreach Programme and 3<sup>rd</sup> class are taught the recorder and get to play with the Artane Band in a showcase performance.
  - ✓ All pupils regularly play various percussion instruments as part of the music curriculum and children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class learn the recorder.
  - ✓ We run an After School Ukulele Class
  - ✓ We afford the children the opportunity to have live music and drama experiences both onsite and in theatres. For example, we have invited Graffiti Classics String Quartet and a traditional music group in to play.

## **KEEPING UP TO SPEED:**

- School calendar outlines important dates
- Notices will be issued regularly by email. It is vital that we have an up-to-date email address for you so you can be kept in the loop about everything that's happening in the school
- Monthly newsletter highlights what will be going on each month
- Text reminders are sent about different events
- Check the website [www.stjohnofgodartane.com](http://www.stjohnofgodartane.com)

## **DAILY TIMETABLE:**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 8.50a.m.            | School begins           |
| 10.30a.m.-10.40a.m. | Morning Break           |
| 12.15p.m.-12.45p.m. | Lunch Break             |
| 1.30p.m.            | Infants dismissed       |
| 2.30p.m.            | Other classes dismissed |

In order to avoid large congregations of adults at drop off and collection time, during the pandemic, the pedestrian gate will be open from 8:40 onwards. Children walk up the yard and will be greeted by me at the front door and go straight in. The children wash their hands before entering the classroom. We ask all accompanying adults to wear a mask when dropping off or collecting your child. A one-way system is in operation, whereby you walk in via the pedestrian gate and out via the pedestrian barriers.

Parents collect Junior and Senior Infants from the front door at 1:30.

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

STUDENTS SHOULD MISS NO MORE THAN 9 DAYS PER YEAR TO STAY ENGAGED, SUCCESSFUL AND ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

**20** days missed each year in primary

Is the



same as

**160** days missed over the course  
of 8 years

WHICH IS



THE SAME AS

**Skipping a full year of primary  
school**

# WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE?

## THE NIGHT BEFORE:



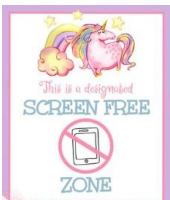
**Homework  
Complete**



**Schoolbag  
Packed**



**Uniform Ready**



**No devices in  
the bedroom**



**Fixed early  
bedtime**

## EVERY SCHOOL MORNING:



**Set alarm to  
avoid rushing**



**Eat breakfast**



**No TV  
before school**



## Notes

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**St. John of God Girls Primary School**  
**Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5**  
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**[www.stjohnofgodartane.com](http://www.stjohnofgodartane.com)**