



DRUMBARAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL

Drumbaragh, Kells, Co. Meath

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ENROLEMENT INFORMATION

Drumbaragh School is a co-educational catholic school catering for children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Our philosophy of and vision for education is to provide a nurturing and supportive environment in which all children are cherished for their uniqueness.

Equal opportunity is afforded to all children to reach their full potential academically, spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally. This is achieved in a climate of positive co-operation, supported by the entire school community of pupils, teachers, support staff, parents, Board of Management and wider community. In this way teaching and learning can take place within the context of mutual valuing and respecting relationships

OUR ETHOS

At Drumbaragh School education is not viewed as simply providing students with knowledge but as facilitating the all-round development of the child. We believe each child has a unique and special contribution to make and every child matters. We strive to develop independent students who can self-evaluate and self-motivate, students who are happy with themselves, with others, and their wider world. We seek to promote an ethos which is:

- ❖ Welcoming
- ❖ Tolerant
- ❖ Safe
- ❖ Nurturing
- ❖ Inclusive
- ❖ Fun

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The school is run by the Board of Management. This board is made up of eight people: two Parents Nominees, two Community Nominees, two members of the teaching staff and two Patron's/Diocesan nominees. Each Board serves a four-year term.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

As a parent/guardian you are an automatic member of our Parents Association. The Parents Association is run by an executive of three parents/guardians. Your ideas and support will be crucial in helping to make the Parents Association a success. During the year the Parents Association run meetings, talks, events and fund raisers. These contribute greatly to the social life of the school. They are also a means of getting to know new people while at the same time of making real contribution to your child's education. Remember you are the association so please do get involved.

GOLDEN RULES

Our **Code of Discipline** has at its core **5 Golden Rules**. Pupils and staff are all expected to respect these.

- ❖ Kind words, kind hands, kind feet, show respect to all you meet.
- ❖ Arrive on time, heed the bell, line up fast, use class time well.
- ❖ Orderly walking is the rule, into and within the school.
- ❖ Be prepared for work and play, keep yourself tidy along the way.
- ❖ Raise your hand when you want to speak, listen well throughout the week.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Junior & Senior Infants:

8.50 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

1st – 6th Class:

8.50 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Morning Break:

10.30 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.

Lunch Break:

12.40 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE

The children are expected to be punctual and to attend school every day. Good school attendance is crucial to your child's progress. It should be noted that your child may not enter the school before 8.40 a.m. Children remain the responsibility of their parents/guardians until that time.

We ask that you are on time picking up your child daily. The Infant Teacher has other duties to perform and small children's trust is shattered if they are left waiting when every other child has been collected.

MORNING LINE UP

Children are asked to go directly to their class line in the yard area when they arrive for school. Lining up is encouraged in the interest of safety and discipline. On rainy days the children are permitted to go to their individual classrooms where the class teacher will supervise them. Junior Infants in the initial weeks may be accompanied by a parent/guardian to their class line in yard, it is encouraged to develop a handover at the school gate with a member of staff as early as possible in the school year.

TRAFFIC

Parents are urged to use the school car park correctly to avoid placing any child in danger. A **Drop & Go** system is in operation within the school, pupils may be dropped to school from 8.40am onwards to a supervised yard, to enable parents vacate the car park quickly and avoid traffic congestion.

LATE ARRIVAL / EARLY LEAVING

All pupil late arrivals and early collections must be submitted via Aladdin Connect (School Administration System) directly to the class teacher. This system operates in absence of a signed 'In / Out Register' and no child will be permitted to leave school early in the absence of a parental notification submitted through the admin system. Parents are urged to only avail of early collections when necessary as it eats into your child's learning time.

NOTE: CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY MUST BE COLLECTED BY AN ADULT. CHILDREN WILL NOT BE RELEASED INTO THE CARE OF A JUVENILE. PLEASE STATE CLEARLY WHO WILL BE COLECTING YOUR CHILD

DRUMBARAGH SCHOOL UNIFORM



- ❖ Navy V Neck Crested Wool Jumper
- ❖
- ❖ Navy Trousers /Pinafore/ Skirt
- ❖
- ❖ Pale Blue Shirt /Blouse
- ❖
- ❖ School Tie

A strict School Uniform Policy is implemented within our school. Pupils are expected to wear the Full School Uniform Monday to Thursday, and School Tracksuit on Fridays for P.E Day.

The School Tracksuit is: Navy Sweater Top / Blue Polo Shirt / Navy Tracksuit Pants. Black Shoes only with Uniform & Black Runners with Tracksuit.

JEWELLERY: The only items of jewellery permitted are a watch and stud earrings. All other items of jewellery will be confiscated until home time.

MOBILE PHONES: Pupils are strictly forbidden to bring mobile phones into the school. Pupils will have their phones confiscated until a parent comes in to retrieve the device.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

As part of our Health Education Programme, we have a Healthy Eating Policy. We encourage children to bring a healthy lunch i.e. sandwich, cheese, fruit, yogurt, milk or water. Nourishing foods are encouraged.

Lunches – Choose a lunch box and beaker that can be easily opened. Please label both, for safety reasons glass bottles are forbidden.

Crisps, peanuts, fizzy drinks, junk food, and chewing gum **ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

OUR SCHOOL IS A NUT FREE ZONE

Note: In order that you know what your child has eaten, each child brings home the remains in their lunch box.

MEDICATION

It is the policy of the school not to administer any medications to children. Any medicine should be self-administered, under the supervision of an authorised adult. The school will be happy to facilitate Parents/Guardians needing to give medication to their child. Epipens for allergies and other emergency medication will be administered by a member of staff with prior signed consent from the parents/guardians.

DISABILITIES

If a child has or develops any physical or health problems, it is important to inform the Principal at enrolment or immediately thereafter so that appropriate provisions can be put in place. The above information will be treated with respect and confidence.

CHILDREN UNWELL IN SCHOOL/ COVID PROTOCOLS

When a teacher feels that a child is not well enough for school or presenting with Covid symptoms the Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately. In the event of a serious illness/accident an ambulance will be called and the child will be brought to hospital, you will need to have signed the permission form for this.

It is essential that the school has up to-date contact details for parents/guardians, please keep your Aladdin profile up to-date always.

ABSENCE AND SICKNESS

Regular school attendance is crucial to your child's progress. In accordance with the Educational Welfare Act the school has a duty to report any child who has missed 20 days or more in one academic year. The principal has no discretion in this. However, from time-to-time children do get sick. If your child has a particular health problem e.g., eyesight, hearing, toilet related problem, asthma etc. please inform the school. Parents/Guardians are now obliged by law to provide a written explanation on their child's absence to the school.

CURRICULAR SUBJECTS

There is a new Primary Language Curriculum being rolled out at present in our schools. This new curriculum looks for an alignment of both the English and Irish languages, that they are taught alongside each other as opposed being taught without highlighting the connections. The Primary School Curriculum consists of **six** Curriculum areas, and these are further divided into **eleven** subjects.

- 1. Language:** Gaeilge & English.
- 2. Mathematics:** Mathematics.
- 3. Social, Environmental & Scientific Education (S.E.S.E)**
- 4. Arts Education:** Music, Visual Arts and Drama.
- 5. Physical Education (P.E):** Physical Education.
- 6. Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E)**

The Curriculum aims to ensure **all** children are provided with learning opportunities that recognise their uniqueness, develop their full potential and prepare them to meet the challenge of the 21st Century. The focus is on the child as a learner, and the aim is to develop key skills in communication, problem solving, critical thinking, investigation, and interaction.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Pupils with Additional Education Needs will receive learning support in the form of both in-class and withdrawal support, with a differentiated work programme where appropriate. Early identification of learning difficulties is crucial to helping your child experience success in school and develop positive self-esteem. All children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class are regularly screened through the administration of standardised and observational tests. Parental consultation is a vital aspect of our learning support programme.

Some children for care reasons require additional support in school. We are fortunate to have a **Special Needs Assistant** to support the teachers in catering for the needs of these children.

EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

An Educational Psychologist is available annually to carry out **Educational Assessments** on children who we believe are not making reasonable progress. Parents are consulted and permission is always sought before this is done. This service, however, does not always meet the needs of the school and annually private assessments are undertaken. In such cases Parents/Guardians are asked to bear the cost.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our philosophy is based on the notion that every child has '**Multiple Intelligences**'. In developing these intelligences every child needs an opportunity to be exposed to 'other' educational experiences apart from the purely academic. Every opportunity to provide new learning experiences and opportunities for our pupils is sought and **guest speakers** are regularly invited into the classroom to inspire and motivate our pupils learning journey.

FUND RAISERS

Annually we have fund raising drives in order that we may provide your child with the truly "all round" education we see as crucial to developing his/her potential. We depend on your generosity and support to make these fund raisers a success.

These include:

- ❖ **Halloween Sponsored Walk**
- ❖ **Christmas Bumper Raffle -organised by the Parents' Council**
- ❖ **Easter Bunny Hop**
- ❖ **Non-uniform days throughout the school year**

EMERGENCY CLOSING

The safety of the children is always of primary importance. Should an emergency closing be appropriate (e.g., in the event of no heat, snow etc.) the decision to close the school will be taken by the Board of Management at the earliest possible time so as to maximise notice to Parents/Guardians. If an emergency closing arises Parents/Guardians will be informed of this by school text.

POLICIES

Apart from the information provided in this booklet there are several school policies (available on the school website www.drumbaraghnationale-school.ie) regarding school pastoral, administrative, and curricular practice that are important to familiarise yourself with. All parents on acceptance of enrolment agree to adhere to the School Code of Discipline, a copy of which may be made available on request or is also available on school website.

Drumbaragh National School

JUNIOR INFANTS STARTING SCHOOL

THE FIRST DAY

Start with a good breakfast. Come to the class line on time, give a hug, say good-bye, give an assurance that you will collect him/her at the proper time. **Then leave!** Almost all children are busy and happy within minutes of their parents leaving.

For the first fortnight your child will have a short day (8.50am -11.50pm) so give a small healthy lunch.

New Infants are usually very tired when they start school first, so please help them by making sure they go to bed early.

Towards the middle of September, the children will be in school for the full infant day.

8.50 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

At 1.30 p.m. the teacher will bring the children out to the gate down at the car park.

Please ensure you are on time. Your child's ability to separate from you will be enhanced if they know you will be there on time.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Elasticated waistbands trousers are easier for small children to manage than buttons and belts.
2. Velcro runners are easier than lace ups.
3. Please **label all clothing, bags and lunch boxes, as most are identical.**
4. If there is an upset at home which you think may affect your child's progress/mood / behaviour in school, please inform your child's teacher. This is helpful for us in understanding your child's individual needs. (This information will be treated with respect and in confidence.)

THE FIRST YEAR

Starting school is a milestone in the life of your child.

You can help to make this transaction easier by providing safe opportunities for your child to spend time away from you and with other children to learn how to share and take turns.

All children are different. In school we encourage each child to do his/her best through individual, group, and whole class activities. All **children learn at their own pace.** Just as children walk and talk at different stages, they also read and write when they are ready.

HELP YOUR CHILD TO BE INDEPENDENT AND READY FOR SCHOOL BY TRAINING HIM/HER:

1. To use the toilet, wash, and dry hands without help.
2. To put on and take off his/her coat and do and undo buttons and zips.
3. To open and close schoolbags, lunch boxes and drink containers.
4. To use a tissue/handkerchief when needed.
5. To recognise his/her own belongings.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD TO GROW

- Give your child time, spend time together.
- Talk to your child and encourage him/her.
- Listen attentively to your child.
- Read and enjoy stories together. Talk about the story.
- Repeat Nursery Rhymes.
- Identify colours and shapes.
- Provide paper, crayons and paints for colouring and scribbling.
- Provide jigsaws, Lego, play dough etc.
- Help him/her to cut out using safe scissors.
- Allow sand and water play.
- Have fun together.
- Praise his/her efforts at every opportunity.
- I can do it, I can Try—Praise, Praise, Praise

In short, do as little to or for your child and as much with your child as possible. Education is a lifelong journey. We want your child's first steps to be as positive as possible. Join us as we walk the path