



Scoil Aoife Community National School

Information Booklet for
Parents and Guardians

2025

Welcome

Welcome to Scoil Aoife Community National School. Here in Scoil Aoife we strive to provide an environment that is happy, caring, and welcoming. A safe place where students are given the opportunity to become the best they can be. Where they can learn and adopt the values of respect and individuality. We want each child to look forward to coming to school each day and for families to feel welcome and become part of the school community. Scoil Aoife is a school where each student gets a chance to develop and celebrate their individuality and talents. We look forward to starting this journey with you and your family.

School Day

Junior infants

- 27th, 28th & 29th August 9.30am – 10.30am
- 1st -12th September 9.00am – 12.00pm
- 15th September onwards 9.00am – 13.40pm

Senior Infants

- 9.00am – 13.40pm

1st-6th Class

- 9.00am – 14.40pm

All pupils are expected to be in their line at 9am each morning.

It is important that pupils arrive to school on time to avoid missing work and settling in time which is so important to pupils' development.

Pupils are collected from their lines each afternoon. Again, it is important that pupils are collected on time. Late collection of pupils can negatively impact on their self-esteem.

School Uniform

The Scoil Aoife uniform is our school tracksuit

It is available to purchase from The School Wearhouse (details below)

We recommend that each child has two tracksuits

A light blue polo shirt is worn under the school tracksuit top. This can be purchased locally from most department stores.

White velcro runners are best. Please avoid buying runners with laces unless your child can tie their laces themselves.

Please LABEL ALL ITEMS



The School Warehouse

Ballymount Cross Industrial Estate,

Unit D7, Ballymount,

Dublin, D24 XRH3

Phone: (01) 460 4371

School Staff

Principal: Tadhg O'Lionaird

Deputy Principal: Clair O'Brien

Secretary: Tina

Caretaker: Vinnie

We have a wonderful team of 16 mainstream teachers, 2 special class teachers and 13 Support Teachers, a HSCL Co-ordinator and a school completion project worker as well as 11 Special Needs Assistants who work tirelessly everyday to educate and support our pupils.

Child Protection Information

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Tadhg O'Lionaird

Deputy DLP: Clair O'Brien

The school has a statutory duty to report any signs of abuse to the HSE.

Categories of Abuse: Physical, Emotional, Sexual and Neglect.

School Information

Helping your child in school

Things to remember when your child starts school:

- Build positive relationships with your child's teacher and school staff.
- Get to know other parents.
- Get involved in your child's learning.
- Get involved in school life.
- 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.
- Sing simple songs and nursery rhymes.
- Identify colours and shapes, count numbers 1-20
- Use paper, crayons and paints for colouring and scribbling.
- Play with jigsaws, lego, play dough etc.
- Help him/her to cut out using safe scissors.
- Have fun together.

Preparation for school

Parents can do a lot to help their child prepare for school and this preparation should begin some months before the child starts school and should be carried out gradually.

The following may help your child to prepare:

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Button and unbutton a coat and hang it up.
- Close their own runners—Velcro runners are recommended
- Use the toilet without help and dress themselves after.
- Teach personal hygiene and cleanliness. Your child should know how to flush the toilet, wash hands without having to be told and use a tissue to wipe their nose when necessary.
- Share toys with others and ‘take turns’.
- Tidy up and put away toys.

Things to remember before your child starts school:

- Have a positive attitude towards school.
- Tell your child about starting school, talk about it as a happy place where they will meet new friends.
- Organise play dates for your child to develop their social skills.
- Encourage your child to become more independent.
- Get your child to recognise their name and their belongings.
- Teach your child about respect.
- Help to develop their motor skills with colouring activities.
- Read to your child. Count with your child.
- Establish a good bedtime routine (the average 5-year-old needs 11 hours sleep).

The First Day

- Start with a good breakfast.
- Come to the school on time. You will be told where to line up in the morning.
- Give a hug, say goodbye and give an assurance that you will collect him/her at the proper time.
- It is important that the parents then leave their children. Almost all children are busy and happy within minutes of their parents leaving.

New infants are usually very tired when they start school first, so please help them by making sure they go to bed early and have a good routine before bed.

Please ensure you are on time in the morning and in the afternoon for collection. If you arrive late, you need to go to the school office and sign the late arrival or late collection book.

Communication

Information to parents will be communicated mostly through electronic means, i.e. Aladdin Connect, the school website www.scoilaoifecns.ie, by email to the email address supplied by you, by text to the mobile number supplied by you.

Occasionally we will send a letter/note/form home in your child's schoolbag.

It is important that we have up-to-date contact details for parents/guardians/minders and anyone else nominated by you to care for your child. We require home address, mobile phone numbers and emergency contact details. Please remember if you change address, email or phone number you need to inform the office so that we can update our records.

Pupil Absences

Regular attendance at school is vital to enable your child to progress. Unless your child is ill or there is a family emergency, we would encourage you to send your child to school each day. All absences are recorded. In accordance with the Educational Welfare Act, the school has a duty to report any child who misses 20 days or more of school in an academic year.

Parents/Guardians are obliged by law to provide a written explanation on their child's absence to the school. These reasons can be communicated through Aladdin Connect. Please make sure to download the Aladdin Connect App.

Health, Safety and Hygiene

All children need to practise their hand washing. They need to be shown how to wash their hands properly for at least 20 seconds using hand soap. All children should also be shown how to use hand sanitiser properly.

Your child is sharing toilet facilities with other children. Please discuss the importance of personal hygiene, particularly flushing and hand washing, with her/him.

Children need to be shown and practise sneezing and coughing etiquette. They need to be shown how to sneeze and cough into a tissue or their elbow, wash hands after and dispose of tissues by flushing them in the toilet.

If your child has a health condition such as asthma, diabetes, allergy etc., this needs to be shared with the school in writing on the acceptance form. As your child progresses through the school, you will need to update each teacher if any illnesses or allergies arise.

- If your child has any infectious illness, please notify the school immediately.
- If your child is sick, they should not attend school.
- If your child has been vomiting at home, we insist that parents do not allow their child/children to return to school until 48 hours has passed since the last episode of vomiting.
- If a child becomes ill during the school day, the class teacher will contact their parent. It is the responsibility of each parent to ensure that they collect their child immediately if their child becomes ill at school.

Health, Safety and Hygiene continued

Chicken Pox is a common illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs which eventually drop off. It is spread quickly and easily through the coughs and sneezes of someone who is infected. To prevent spreading the infection keep children off school until all the spots have crusted over.

Head lice are a common problem in primary schools. Please check your child's head regularly and if you discover any headlice do not be embarrassed to let the school know. When we are aware of outbreak, we inform parents immediately.

Aladdin Connect

Aladdin Connect is an app used by Irish primary schools to securely communicate and share information with parents/guardians. As well as messages from the school, you can view details that the school shares about your child's attendance, test results, report cards, homework, and library books. You can also enter reasons for your child's absences from the Aladdin Connect app.

Aladdin Connect is accessed via a secure login. You sign in securely to Aladdin Connect from your computer, laptop or smartphone. We will send you an access code by email so you can register with Aladdin Connect. Then you can download the Aladdin Schools Connect app to receive instant notifications from the school and to have convenient and secure access to your child's information from your mobile device. For more information visit our school website or <https://www.aladdin.ie/parent.html>.

Drop Off & Home Time

School starts at 9am each day and all children are expected to arrive on time. Children will line up with their class in the school yard. All children need to be supervised on yard by an adult until the teacher collects them at 9am.

If you need to collect or return your child to school at any point during the day, you will need to report to the school office to sign them in or out. If your child has a professional appointment, please notify their classroom teacher or office the day before.

Please inform your child's teacher if there are any changes regarding who collects your child.

Be sure to collect your child on time. Children can become very upset while waiting to be collected. At home time please greet your child and ask them how their day was. Please refrain from using your mobile phone on school grounds.

Homework

Homework is an important part of your child's work. It serves several purposes:

- Consolidation of schoolwork.
- An opportunity to develop independent work.
- Enables parents to observe their child in a working situation.

Homework Tips

- Establish a homework routine. Choose a suitable time, allowing a short break after school.
- The child should be sitting comfortably at a table.
- Homework time should include oral as well as written work.
- If your child is working independently, be available to help and show an interest in what is being done.
- If your child is persistently having a problem with homework talk to the class teacher.
- Encourage your child to keep their books and copies clean and tidy.

Helping your child with their homework is not the same as doing the homework for them. If your child comes into school with homework done correctly but not understood, it is of no benefit to them.