

Welcome

Welcome to St. Dominic's National School. While the ethos is Roman Catholic, pupils from all denominations are welcome. Each child is treated as an individual, with unique requirements. We do our best to meet each child's needs.

St Dominic's is a Green School. So far we have achieved three Green Flags. We do our best to reduce, reuse and recycle. The children are very aware of our policy, take an active part in recycling and conserving throughout the school and we hope take the message home.

History of The School

St. Dominic's Co-Educational School was established in September 1990 as a result of the amalgamation of the former Our Lady of Loreto Boys' and Girls' Schools. The name St. Dominic's and the amalgamation itself are significant in view of the long history of The Dominican Order in this area. Our Lady of Loreto Girls' and Boys' Schools were established on July 1st, 1970. Many of our present parents are past pupils of the school and this continuity is of great benefit to both pupils and teachers. The ethos of the school is to create a relaxed but constructive teaching and learning environment.

Board of Management

The Board of Management of the school, which is charged with its governance, has eight members and meets regularly throughout the school year. The Board of Management consists of the Chairperson, Principal, Patron's nominee, Teachers' Representative, Parents and Community Representative and Treasurer.

Chairperson	Rev. Fr. Laurence Collins
Principal	Mr. Séamus Vaughan
Teachers' Nominee	Ms. Margaret Connell
Treasurer	Ms. Kathleen Magennis
Parents' Nominee	Ms. Shirley White
Parents' Nominee	Mr. Ciaran Prendergast
Community Nominee	Mr. Colm McAuley
Community Nominee	Ms. Marie Walsh

Fundraising & Parental Involvement

We have an active Parents' Association who run events throughout the year. They have been helpful in raising funds for our pitch, garden, Christmas Raffle, Easter Raffle, Library etc. They also encourage other parents to get involved in other school based activities. They welcome all help and support. Many parents get involved in Maths, Literacy and Science for Fun. Others organise and "man" the library each week. Others bake for our Cake Sale or help in the garden. If you feel you have some skill to offer the school we would like to hear from you.

The School Day

School starts at 8.50 a.m.

Our Infants finish at 1.30 p.m.

All other classes finish at 2.30 p.m.

The yard is supervised by the principal from 8.40am each morning.

Our 1st Break is at 10.30 a.m. Children may have a small snack before going out to yard.

The yard is supervised at all times. As part of our Code of Behaviour, we promote fair play and gentleness in the playground.

Our 2nd Break is from 12.30 – 1.00 p.m. in the yard. Children have their lunch in the classrooms before yard. The children are supervised in their classrooms if weather does not permit going outside.

Trips & Outings

Various trips to Libraries, Art Galleries, Theatres or Sporting occasions are organized throughout the year. Costs are kept to a minimum and sometimes are free. Children who display exceptional good behaviour are brought out on trips by the Support Teacher.

Lunches

Under the School Completion Programme, lunches are provided free to the school. They consist of a sandwich or roll, a piece of fruit and a drink. There is a terrific choice and they are delivered fresh to the school each morning. Children may bring another lunch if they wish but

No crisps, hula hoops or other salty snacks.

No bars, biscuit bars or biscuits.

No sweets or chocolate.

No fizzy or Energy drinks.

No Chewing gum.

Children will receive “treats” from time to time to reward good behaviour a good effort made with their work or on special occasions.

Discipline

In order to promote and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect we have introduced a very effective Code of Behaviour. The approach is positive and there is a structure of affirmation and approval for children when they make the right choice. The aim is to create an atmosphere of positive teaching that builds each child’s self esteem and confidence. There are rules which are applied in the classroom, the yard and throughout the school. When children choose to follow the rules they are rewarded. There are behaviour checks for those who don’t follow the rules. We ask Parents/Guardians to read the Code of Behaviour carefully and the document must be signed.

Sports & Recreation

The school provides opportunities for pupils to participate in a wide variety of sports activities. Hurling, Gaelic Football, Soccer and Basketball are some of the sports that the school takes part in each year. With the help of parents, staff and children we also have our own GAA pitch. Swimming is done with 3rd and 4th classes only. Athletics are also pursued and each year the children take part in Santry Sports.

Attendance/Class Dismissal

Regular, consistent attendance is essential for steady progress at school. Any absence must be explained by note. The Welfare Act imposes an obligation on schools to inform the welfare officer regarding poor attendance i.e. when your child has been absent for 20 days. At the end of each month, term and year children are rewarded for full attendance. Class ends for

Infants at 1.30 p.m. sharp. Teachers will not release children without making sure there is someone at the door to collect them. Children from 1st to 6th classes are released at 2.30 p.m. Teachers escort the children to the gate. Children leaving school early must also sign a note in the office. Please do not park on the Zigzag road markings. They are for your child's and the public's safety and to facilitate the Lollipop Lady helping the children to cross. **Car park is for Staff cars only.** Other cars using the car-park in the morning and afternoon are a danger to the children.

After School Club / Homework

This is a service for children who have serious difficulty doing their homework at home. It is for 3rd - 6th classes and places are limited. All children are expected to have their homework signed.

Emergency Card

Please fill this in and also inform the school if there is a court order concerning custody/access of your child.

School closures

Parents are kept informed by means of newsletters (always in pink) regarding school closures, in-service days etc. Text-a-Parent is also used so it is vital that the office has an up to date mobile phone number. A calendar of the school's holidays is given out at the beginning of the year.

School Uniform

Grey skirt/trousers. Red jumper/cardigan. White blouse/shirt/red tie. Available from local outlets. Footwear should be appropriate for time of year and the weather. **No runners – No PE.**

Track-Suit

The school track-suit is ordered only through the school. Orders are taken at the school office before the end of March each year.

Lost Property

Responsibility cannot be accepted for children's personal belongings. Lost/Found items are stored in the kitchen.

Parent/School Relations

Friendly and co-operative relationships between Parents and Teachers are very important to us. Only in an easy and friendly atmosphere can your child develop his/her potential. Junior Infant Induction Day is in June, Class meetings in September and Parent/Teacher meetings in November. Parents are notified in advance. Every effort is made to accommodate parents' needs. These meetings are a good opportunity to be aware of your child's progress. Attendance at these meetings is very important. If a parent considers it necessary to meet with the class teacher and/or principal a meeting can be arranged. You will appreciate that a teacher is unable to give proper attention or privacy to a parent if he/she is preoccupied with his/her class left unattended in the background. Therefore it is necessary to make an appointment to meet your class teacher at a suitable time. End of year reports are given to

all children from 1st to 6th classes. All records regarding your child are safely stored.

Curriculum

The curriculum subjects taught include English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Religion, Art & Craft, P.E., Music, Science and Social Personal and Health Education. To ensure the best possible education for our pupils we have invested in special equipment and resource materials. These include computers and educational software equipment, Art & Craft materials and a wide range of reading/library resources. Each mainstream classroom has an Inter-Active Whiteboard. Huge emphasis is placed on early literacy and numeracy skills. All Curricular Plans and Policies are available from the office.

Books

Class book lists are available in June. A Free Book Grant is available for needy pupils through the Principal's office. Regrettably, this is not sufficient to cover the whole book bill. Children are expected to have all books and copies on September 1st. Copies are sold from the office throughout the year.

Book Rental

There is a very good book rental scheme in the school. This has greatly reduced school book bills. Payment is due in May / June.

Staffing and Pastoral Care

Our school has a team of outstanding and committed teachers whose efforts are supplemented by the non-teaching staff such as the Secretaries, Caretaker, Special Needs Assistants, Counsellors, Sports Coaches etc.

As well as class teachers we have 2 Learning Support Teachers, Home/School Liaison Teacher, 2 Resource Teachers, Support Teacher, and Resource Teacher for English as a Second Language. Under the National Educational Psychological Scheme we are entitled to four assessments per year. The teachers may suggest that your child needs a Psychological /Speech and Language or other Assessment.

This advice is always given with the best interests of the child in mind.

Medicine Health & Hygiene

Please inform the school if your child is on any long term medication. We would also ask you to check your child's hair regularly as unfortunately head lice are a persistent problem.

Minor cuts and bruises are treated in school. If the teacher on duty thinks the accident

deserves further attention we refer to the Yellow Form.

Child Protection

The school has adopted "Children First" the National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children. If the staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse we are obliged to refer the matter to the HSE.