

Scoil Bhríde N.S. Portlaoise

Mol an Óige

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**INFORMATION BOOKLET
FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN
ATTENDING SCOIL BHRÍDE**



Welcome to Scoil Bhríde

At Scoil Bhríde, we seek to ensure that all our pupils are educated in an environment that is welcoming, caring, considerate and tolerant. The staff at Scoil Bhríde is committed to making sure that your children are happy at school and we aim to do this through working in close partnership with you.

Helping your child with their learning

There are many ways in which you can help your child with their learning:

Talking and Listening

- Talk to your children and encourage them to talk.
- Listen to them and what they have to say.

Stories, reading and books

- Read to your child regularly. Read and tell them stories, say nursery rhymes and poems, and encourage them to talk about what they hear (for example they could retell their favourite part of a story).

Language

Language is essential for developing reading and writing skills. Listen to your children. Talk to them and encourage them. In developing your child's language skills you should encourage them to:

Listen 😊

Explain 😊

Tell 😊

Talk 😊

Question 😊

Retell 😊

Points to note:

The following points of information can be very useful to parents of children who attend Scoil Bhríde. Please read through them carefully and make note of them.





Lunch

We ask you to promote a healthy lunch for your children. Please do not give your child sticky bars, lollipops, peanuts, fizzy drinks or crisps for lunch. Also, chewing gum is not allowed in this school. Please only give your child something you feel that they can manage to easily eat and a lunch box that your child can open and close themselves. Please ensure that you clean out your child's lunch box everyday.



Parking

Parents are asked not to park in the staff car park. Also, please do not double park outside the school or in the area designated for buses. In the interest of the safety of the children, please use only designated parking areas. Also, parents and children are not permitted to walk through the staff car park in the interest of their safety.

Going Home

Please be sure to collect your children on time. Children can become very upset if they see other children being collected and feel they are being left behind.

Please inform the school if you are delayed in traffic, or because of an emergency so that we can inform your child that you are on your way.

Every Day Counts



What does the Education Welfare Act mean for us?

Parents

- You must ensure your child attends school regularly.
- If your child is absent you must tell the school the reason for the absence.

Schools

Must inform the Educational Welfare Officer

- If your child is not attending school regularly.
- If your child has missed 20 days or more.

Effects of Poor Attendance

- ◆ Poor attendance means that your child will miss out on the foundations for all subjects and may lead to problems later.
- ◆ Child misses work particularly if the teacher begins something new.
- ◆ Children miss time with friends. This may lead to feelings of isolation and loss of self-confidence.



- ◆ Poor attendance leads to Early School Leaving.

Helpful Hints

Be organised

- School bags
- Lunches
- Uniforms



**Ready
the night before**

Make sure

homework is done



If there is a problem with homework

- Send a note in the Homework Journal or
- Talk to the class teacher

Early to bed Early to rise

But if you get up late....

Send them in with a note



Medical/Dental/ Speech therapy Appointments

- Collect your child from school.
- Return to school if medically fit.
- Sign early collection slip available from the Secretary's office.

Notes

- Check bags for notes re days off, early closings etc.
- Text-a-Parent - Give your mobile number to the school Secretary.
- If your mobile number or address changes, please ensure that you inform the school Secretary.

Be firm with your child regarding their attendance

Especially on....

- Half days
- Fridays / Mondays
- Days when other children may have no school
- Birthdays

s for Parents

Be Positive



- * Encourage and praise your child.
- * When possible, get involved in activities at the school.
- * Talk to your child about the value of school.
- * Explain to your child that the longer they stay in school the better the choice of career they will have.

If your child is sick or in hospital

- Inform the school. 
- Give a written note to the teacher when your child returns. 

How do I ensure my child does not fall behind?

- Find out what your child is doing in school.
- Help your child with their homework.
- Talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns regarding their school work.

Family Problems

- Reassure your child.
- Send your child to school even if they are late or couldn't do their homework.
- Send a note to the teacher.



If you suspect he/she may be pretending

- Check if there is anything worrying your child.
- Send child in.
- Reassure your child that the school will contact you if he/she is sick in school.

Encouraging good attendance.

What does Scoil Bhríde do?

- ◆ Good attendance is rewarded. Every fortnight there is a lucky dip for students who have been in attendance for the fortnight. Also, Attendance Certificates are handed out each month to those pupils who have been in attendance for the whole month.
- ◆ Good communication between home and school is encouraged.
- ◆ Children are encouraged to voice their concerns eg. Bullying at Circle time, SPHE class.
- ◆ Children with poor attendance are identified, supported and encouraged.
- ◆ At Parent Teacher meetings or through Home School Liaison, parents attention is drawn to attendance.
- ◆ Regular contact is kept with the Education Welfare Officer.
- ◆ Parents are given as much notice as possible of days off.
- ◆ Enjoyable activities are planned on days which frequently have low attendance.



Acceptable Absences

General Guidelines

- * Sickness, accidents, medical procedures.
- * Death of a close relative.
- * Religious ceremony involving a close relative.



What to do if your child has been absent

Inform the school of reason for absence

- Fill in an Absence note in the back of your child's homework journal.
- Parents of Infants can fill in a note from their school absence slip booklet.

Early collection

When it is necessary for your child to leave school early, an early collection slip must be collected from the secretary's office. It must be filled in and given to the class teacher. This is in the interest of the health and safety of your child.

Absent Note

In the event of your child being absent for illness or any other reason, the class teacher should be informed **by note** on return to school. These notes are retained on file for inspection by the Education Welfare Board if required.



Health, Hygiene & Safety

Everyday your child will share a room with a large number of children. Close contact with other children is unavoidable, so particular attention should be paid to health and hygiene. If your child has a **particular health problem** such as allergies, asthma, diabetes etc. you should advise the school. The school should be made aware of the name and address of your family doctor. If your child needs medication on a regular basis you may need to make special arrangements for this. Scoil Bhríde operates a Code of Behaviour and anti-bullying policy which are available from the office. The school fully endorses 'Children First' the designated guidelines for the protection and well-being of children.

Home-school communication

For schools to do what is best for your child it is very important to have good home-school communication. It is important that you check your child's schoolbag regularly for notes. Parent-teacher meetings are held once a year and it is important that you attend these to keep in touch with your child's progress in school. If you feel you wish to speak to your child's teacher at any other stage during the year, please feel free to make an appointment with the teacher or through the school secretary.



Home-school Community Liaison

Deirdre Wall is the H.S.C.L. Co-ordinator in Scoil Bhríde N.S. Deirdre's role is to support parents in the education of their children and to advise parents on related issues. During the school year parents may be invited into the school to work with teachers and pupils on literacy, numeracy and science initiatives. A variety of classes and courses are also organised for parents to attend. Home visitations are a big part of Deirdre's role and she spends three mornings/afternoons a week visiting parents in their homes. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact her. Deirdre can be contacted by phone at 086 7901799, email dwallhscl@gmail.com or by calling into the school.

Uniform:

Boys

Wine v-necked jumper
White shirt
Wine tie
Grey Trousers
Black/wine socks
Flat black shoes/boots

Girls

Wine v-necked jumper
White shirt
Wine tie
Tartan kilt/grey trousers
Black or wine socks/tights
Flat black shoes/boots

P.E. Uniform:

School Tracksuit

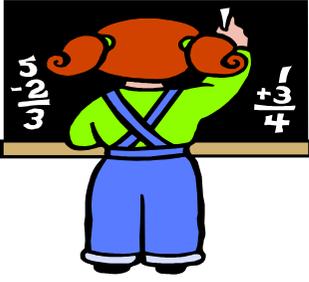
[available from Colgan Sports Main St].

- White Polo shirt.
- Runners.
- The school tracksuit may be worn on P.E. days only.

Parents' Association

Scoil Bhríde has a very active and supportive Parents' Association whose role is to enrich the education of the children through working with the Principal, Teachers and the Board of Management.





Mol an Óige!

