

Scoil Bhríde N.S.

Stillbrook
Mountrath
Co. Laois



Information Booklet for Parents

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A Message from the **Principal**

As Principal of Scoil Bhríde it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our school. Our School motto 'Mol an óige, agus tiocfaidh sí' is at the heart of our holistic approach to education. We aim to develop the full potential of each child and to celebrate their uniqueness and individuality. My colleagues and I derive great personal and professional fulfillment from the role we play in the lives of young people whose education is entrusted to us. We recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children and so we look forward to the opportunity to build on that foundation as we journey together in educating your daughters. Thank you for joining us on this path.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Mary Rohan
Principal

School Vision:

Scoil Bhríde is an All Girls Catholic school.

Each pupil will be stimulated through positive learning experiences to achieve her full potential, to face life confidently, to find fulfillment and be respectful in an ever-changing world.

School Aims:

1. To educate our pupils spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially, so that they will lead full harmonious lives and will experience God's presence in their lives.
2. To promote the Christian values of love, truthfulness, honesty, equality, justice, tolerance and trust.
3. To make our school a centre, where each child will achieve their potential.
4. To encourage the children to respect and appreciate their environment.
5. To encourage close contact between home and school.

A Christian Ethos permeates the school day and the life of the school. There is a spirit of prayer in the school. The school welcomes all newcomers to the school community provided they respect its values and ethos and support its policy. The celebration of the Christian Liturgical Seasons is part of the rhythm of the school year- as are regular prayer services and assemblies. Catholic pupils are prepared for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.

The 'Grow In Love' programme is taught. At its core is "Love God and love your neighbour"

Board of Management

Scoil Bhríde like all schools, is governed by a Board of Management (BOM). The Board comprises of 8 people including the Chairperson, Mr. David Page. There are also 2 parent representatives, 2 community representatives, a patron and teacher representative.

Parents' Association

A vibrant Parents' Association/Council is in existence in the school. Membership is open to all parents/guardians of all pupils enrolled. It promotes the interests of the pupils in co-operation with the BOM, Principal and staff. Parents as a group have a wide range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for pupils. The more interest a parent shows in their child's education the happier a child is. By being involved in your child's education at as many levels as you can, you are demonstrating to your child that you are interested in them and that you care about their welfare. In turn they will see the importance of school and education and have a positive attitude towards school work and homework.

Uniform:

The pupils at Scoil Bhríde wear a school uniform and a note is required to excuse non-wearing of uniform.

- White shirt
- Navy pinafore, skirt or navy school trousers
- Red jumper or cardigan
- Red tie
- White/ Red/ Navy socks/ tights
- Flat school shoes

School tracksuits are to be worn on PE days/ Sporting outings.

- Navy jumper
- Navy tracksuit pants
- White/ Red Polo shirts
- Runners

Healthy Lunch Policy:

A healthy lunch both for small and big lunch are provided free of charge to each pupil attending our school as part of a scheme introduced by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Each parent/guardian fills out a menu with choices and the lunch comes in an individually wrapped bag with the pupil's name on it. We encourage all pupils to participate in this fantastic scheme.

Birthdays and Party Invitations:

In line with our Healthy Eating Policy, children are not allowed to bring "goodies" to school to celebrate birthday parties. Because of nut and food allergies we cannot take responsibility for food being brought into school by the children. Their special days will be celebrated in other ways such as singing "Happy Birthday".

Please note also that invitations to birthday parties cannot be distributed inside the school.

Care of Hair:

Parents are asked to check their child's hair regularly for outbreaks of head lice. If there is an outbreak of head lice in a class, all parents of pupils in that class are informed by note and asked to take immediate action to treat infestation. Girls with long hair should have it tied back.

SPHE (Social, Personal & Health Education):

From Infants and right through the school, in the lessons based on "taking care of my body" the proper terms are used.

Code of Behaviour Policy, Enrolment Policy and Anti Bullying Policy can be viewed on the school website www.scoilbhridemountrath.weebly.com

Parking:

The front of the School is a 'drop off only' zone so please do not park your car in a manner that is blocking the way of others. Spaces are reserved for Staff Parking only.

School Calendar:

A copy of the school calendar will be distributed to all at the beginning of September.

School Times:

School starts for all pupils at 9.20 a.m.

N.B. The school cannot accept responsibility for children arriving before the official opening time of the school, or remaining in the school grounds after school.

Junior, Senior Infants: finish at 2.00 p.m.
1st Class - 6th Class: finish at 3.00 p.m.

Attendance:

The Education Welfare Act requires children to be in school every day unless there is a reasonable explanation for not attending. Where a child is absent from the school, the parent is required under the Act to notify the teacher of the reason for the child's absence. The Act states that the relevant authorities will be informed of pupils who have been absent for **twenty school days or more** (this includes illness, holidays outside school holidays etc.). A pupil who shows signs of illness should be kept at home. Requests from parents to allow their child to stay inside during break times cannot be accepted. A child who is too sick to play with his peers or go outside during break times should not be in school. The school is unable to provide adequate supervision both inside and outside the school, during break times. However, arrangements will be made in exceptional circumstances, when a child needs to stay inside.

Illness:

Situations do arise when a child appears well in the morning and then gets sick during the day. On such occasions every effort will be made to make the child comfortable. Parents/guardians will be contacted. If the school is

unable to make contact with parents/guardians a decision will be made as to whether the child needs medical assistance. If not the child will be made as comfortable as possible until a parent/guardian is contacted.

Pupil Collection:

The class teacher must be furnished with a list of those with authority to collect your child from school. This form will be distributed to parents in September of each new school year. If an occasion arises where someone, not named on the list is collecting your child, please notify the school in writing/ by phone.

The school needs to be notified in writing also if a child needs to leave school early. No child may leave school without permission during school hours.

Punctuality:

It is very important that your child is in school on time as lateness is unsettling for everyone. School starts at 9.20 a.m. Also, please be on time to collect your child. It can be very distressing for your child if you are late.

Phone Numbers:

Please ensure that your child's teacher and the office have up to-date contact numbers. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school in writing of any changes in name, address or telephone. We also need two further contact numbers for emergencies.

Health/Medication:

Parents are asked to inform the school in writing if their child suffers from any allergies, long term or short term illness and if their child is on medication. No teacher can be required to administer medicines to a pupil. Pupils who are on medication or inhalers are asked to fill in a form (available from the school office) for school records.

Accidents:

Accidents occur despite supervision. Minor accidents are treated at school. In the event of a more serious accident or a child becoming very ill, every possible effort will be made to contact the pupil's parents or the persons delegated to take responsibility for that child.

Custody/Separation Policy:

The BOM and staff of the school encourage parents experiencing separation to come and speak **confidentially** to the teachers and/or principal. It is our aim to handle such matters with sensitivity and compassion, and ultimately our primary concern is for the well-being and overall development of the child. When the child spends time in two homes it is requested that the school be provided with both sets of

emergency/contact numbers. Regarding the collection of children from school, it is requested that the school be informed of any changes in the collection arrangements by note. In the absence of a custody arrangement, both parents will be treated as equal partners in terms of parenting rights and responsibilities. The school cannot be asked to withhold a child from either parent, in the absence of a custody arrangement or court order. The BOM and staff of Scoil Bhríde will endeavour at all times to deal sensitively and caringly with children experiencing separation.

Procedures for Reporting allegations of Child Abuse:

The Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde follows the procedures as outlined in the *Children's First Guidelines* as issued by the Department of Health and the guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Science. These procedures are listed in our School Plan. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed by the BOM is Mrs. Mary Rohan. The deputy DLP is Mrs Tara Sheppard. If any parent is concerned about a pupil in the school they should in the first instance contact the DLP.

Parent/Teacher Communication:

To make an appointment please ring the school on **0578732423**. Meetings with class teacher at class doors to discuss a child's concern/progress is discouraged on a number of grounds:

1. A teacher cannot adequately supervise their class while speaking to parents.
2. It is difficult to be discreet when so many children are standing close by.
3. It can be embarrassing for a child when her parent is talking to the teacher at a classroom door.

Occasions occur where a parent needs to speak to a teacher urgently. Sometimes these meetings need to take place without prior notice. The principal will facilitate such meetings making every effort to ensure that the children in the class do not lose out on any of the teaching/learning time they are entitled to.

What we can give your child:

In Scoil Bhríde efforts are made to ensure children taste success regularly. There is a focus on quality learning for all. High standards are achieved in literacy and numeracy. Emphasis is placed on identifying children with learning difficulties early and putting an effective intervention programme in place, in consultation with parents.

Subjects taught in all classes Junior Infants - 6th

Class:

- Languages: English, Irish
- Maths
- History, Geography, Science
- Physical Education
- Religion
- Social Personal and Health Education Visual
- Music, Drama, Art

Extra Curricular activities:

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities catering for children of all interests.

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Football
- Swimming
- Dance
- Choir
- Drama
- Music
- Science: Green School Programme

There will be many other opportunities for your child to experience a holistic educational development: school tours, sports day, Science Days, Musical evenings, Green Flag and Active Schools Programme activities to name but a few.

Facilities:

- Assembly Hall
- Interactive White Boards/Data projectors in all classrooms.
- Wide range of up to date equipment and resources in all subjects.
- A well-stocked school library.
- A cookery kitchen.
- School garden.
- Basketball and Football Pitches

School Rules

Because I like to be happy and to be treated with respect and understanding.

- I must treat others with respect and courtesy.
- I must treat all teachers with politeness and obedience and respect their authority.

-I must not use bad language, as this is insulting to myself and to others.

-I must be kind to others, so I must not call names, tease or try to hurt others' feelings.

Because I like to feel safe.

-I must make the school safe for others, by not threatening, hitting or hurting anyone.

-I must walk calmly and quietly coming and going from school, in school and on school tours. This is to avoid accidents.

Because I like my property to be safe.

-I must treat the property of others with respect.

-I must treat school property, especially books with care. If I damage any property I must replace it.

-I must be tidy and not litter the school.

Because I have the right to obtain maximum benefit from all lessons - other pupils will not deprive me of this by behaviour.

-I have the responsibility to co-operate with teachers.

-I must not stop other children from learning by behaving badly in the classroom.

-I must listen to others and not speak when someone else is speaking.

School Policies and code of Behaviour can be viewed on www.scoilbhridemountrath.weebly.com

Home School Liason Officer

Home-school Community Liason _____ is the H.S.C.L. Co-ordinator in Scoil Bhríde. Her 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 also a big part of the H.S.C.L role. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact her on 0578732423 or

Finally:

We in Scoil Bhríde pride ourselves on being a welcome and open school. If you need advice or have a concern regarding your child, make an appointment at the office to meet with your class teacher or with me. You will usually find that there is a simple explanation and it can be worked out through discussion. Whatever you do don't let a matter fester. If an issue is dealt with at an early stage it is usually best for everyone especially your child. We at Scoil Bhríde will strive to do our best by your child and will always be there to support you. We look forward to working with you over the next 8 years.

Mary Rohan
Principal