



Parents' Information Booklet

*St Patrick's Boys' National School
Church Road
Carndonagh
Co Donegal*

Tel & Fax: 9374136

Email: stpatsboyscarn@eircom.net

School Website: www.carnboysschool.ie

School Staff
January 2024

Administrative Principal: Mrs Anne McLaughlin

Deputy-Principal: Mr Noel Doherty

Class Teachers:
Mr Noel Doherty
Mr. John Mc Feely
Mrs Colette McCandless
Mrs Edel Doherty
Ms Louise McDaid
Ms Aisling McGonagle
Mr Philip Cuffe

Special Education Teachers:
Mrs Roxanna Hirrell
Ms Geraldine McIntyre
Ms Kathleen Gallagher
Ms Paula McLaughlin
Mrs Nora Allen (part-time)
Mrs Jane McQuillan (part-time)

Home School Community Liaison

Teacher: Ms Sinead McLaughlin

Special Needs Assistants:
Mrs. Mary Barr
Mrs Maeve Grant
Mrs Elaine McLaughlin
Mrs Triona McGonagle
Mrs Dannielle Doherty
Mrs Caroline McLaughlin

School Secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Doherty

School Cleaner/Caretaker: Mr John Lafferty

OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

St Patrick's Boys' School aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the individual, including his relationship with God, with other people and with the environment. The policies, practices and attitudes of the school are inspired by Gospel values.

A spirit of mutual respect is promoted within the school. Pupils are taught by example to respect people from different backgrounds, different countries and of different religious affiliations. Respect among pupils, staff, parents and visitors is encouraged within the school.

The school's code of discipline reflects the Christian values of the school, with an emphasis on forgiveness, reconciliation, new beginning and hope. Teachers are sensitive to the needs and particular circumstances of the pupils.

The principal teacher and teachers aim at making the school a centre of excellence in which high professional standards are maintained and where pupils learn in a safe and happy environment and where each pupil is given the opportunity to achieve to his full potential.

School Uniforms

The school uniform must be worn on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The school uniform consists of:

V-neck wine Jumper with school crest

(available from school)

Grey trousers

Grey shirt

Wine tie

(Please ensure to label school uniforms)

School Tracksuit

School tracksuit consists of navy top and bottoms worn with yellow polo shirt. This should be worn on Mondays and Tuesdays.

St. Patrick's Boys' school tracksuit (top)

(available from the school)

Tracksuit bottoms are available in local shops. Please purchase Trampass and Protonic brands.

Healthy Eating Policy

The school have adopted a healthy eating policy which was compiled by representatives of the school staff, parents and pupils. The policy promotes and encourages healthy eating habits in the school, the home and the local community.

Lunch

St Patrick's B.N.S. participates in the School Meals Scheme funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The scheme enables the school to offer the pupils a lunch free of charge during the school year. Alternatively, children may bring their own lunch which should adhere to healthy eating

Savings Club

Children are encouraged to save by partaking in the school's saving scheme. Every Friday saving stamps may be purchased for €1 each. These are put on a saver's card until full (total €20), and then brought to the Post-Office to lodge into an account. There is no obligation to partake in this scheme.

Book Rental Scheme

A book rental scheme operates within the school. This scheme provides textbooks and workbooks for all pupils. Pupils must show respect for all school property and for rented books by having them covered and kept neatly. These books must be returned at the end of each school year. If a child transfers from this school during the year all books must be returned to ensure that this scheme continues.

Meeting with your child's teacher

Parents are always welcome in the school. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher you are advised to make an appointment by phoning the school (074-9374136) or by emailing stpatsboyscarn@gmail.com

Newsletters

The principal will keep parents informed of events, achievements and holidays by sending regular newsletters. Newsletters will usually be issued at the beginning of each month, or as the need arises. Newsletters are sent by email.

Sporting Facilities

Many popular sports are catered for including Gaelic, Hurling, Athletics, Rugby, Swimming and Soccer. The school takes part in leagues within the school and at inter schools level. Training for school teams take place during and after school for pupils from 1st class. School leagues take place during lunch -time. Athletics training takes place during lunch - time also, and boys represent the school at athletic meetings in the county.

Swimming

We are delighted to offer swimming lessons as part of our P.E. programme. We usually go to Templemore Sports Complex for our lessons. The cost of swimming lessons is subsidised by the school. This is a great opportunity for children to learn to swim, to get physical activity and have fun with their friends.

Playground Facilities

We have extensive playground space, both grass and hard core. We are very grateful to Carndonagh Community School for daily use of their all-weather pitch for our senior pupils at lunch-time. This means that during lunch-time children can enjoy age-appropriate activities within segregated age-groupings. The hard core area is used in all weathers and the boys are encouraged to play in the grass in the good weather.

Discipline

In St. Patrick's Boys' School our aim is to teach children the importance of self-discipline. We have a set of rules in the school diary, which should be read and discussed in the home. We advise that your son is reminded of these rules regularly.

A positive attitude to discipline is nurtured within our school. Children are capable of being responsible from an early age and with your help and support we try to lead them towards making positive choices regarding behaviour.

If your son breaches the discipline required we may, in certain circumstances, ask you to assist us in changing his behaviour.

We also see our boys as representatives of the school and we expect them to behave in a way which gives them a pride in the school every time they wear our uniform. This includes to and from school daily, school outings, on the sports field, etc.

Parent Teacher Liaison

Parents' Association

We have a lively Parents Association, which is elected annually at the A G M usually held in the first term. All parents are most welcome and encouraged to get involved in the fund-raising activities organised. The teachers are most grateful to the Association, as without their trojan work this school would not be as well equipped.

Teacher Meetings

Recognising that parents are deeply involved in their children's education there is one parents' day each year. Parents are notified of the date and are invited to come to the school and discuss their child's progress.

Library Facilities

Each classroom has its own library. Resource materials and encyclopaedia are also stored on class computers.

Book Fair

A book fair takes place annually in the school through which boys may purchase books to suit their reading level. Children are under no obligation to buy books nor are they pressurised to do so.

I.T

Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard. There is a portable suite of laptops which are brought into different classrooms. We also have 30 iPads for pupil use.

Preparing for School

Talk to your child about your own school days and the happy memories you have. It helps if your son knows another child starting school with them. Children should be able to put on and take off their coats and hang them up.

They also should be able to use the toilet properly. Explain to your son that he must never be shy to ask to go the toilet. Accidents can happen so it is advisable to have a spare pair of pants in his school bag, which can be used in such circumstances. Encourage confidence by letting your son do things for himself. Try not to criticise if things are not to your liking, e.g., Buttons not perfectly done. Try to praise the effort the child has made.

When getting your child ready for school make things as uncomplicated as you can for him. Elasticised trousers can be easier than zips and buttons; velcro for shoes instead of laces. Choose a lunchbox and schoolbag that your child can open without too much difficulty.

Ensure that your son's property is clearly named with a permanent pen or with commercially produced name-tabs. It is essential that uniforms and tracksuits are named when your child comes to school.

Before the end of the summer term all the new boys are invited to come to school for a visit to meet their teacher and peers. They will be shown the layout of the school, their classroom, the toilets and informally see what school is all about.

Home-School-Community Liaison

Under this scheme, courses for parents are organised, during school-time and in the evenings.

The co-ordinator Ms Sinead McLaughlin liaises with parents regarding relevant school policy-making decisions and on educational issues directly affecting the home.

Home visits or school appointments with the co-ordinator may be made by ringing the school at any time or by contacting HSCL co-ordinator directly on 0862383847.