



Dunderrow National School  
Dunderrow  
Co. Cork  
Roll No: 169400  
Tel: 021 4774041  
e-mail: [info@dunderrow.ie](mailto:info@dunderrow.ie)  
Web: [dunderrowns.ie](http://dunderrowns.ie)



Principal: Mary Cottrell

Deputy Principal: Helen O'Callaghan

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## Information Pack

- Letter of welcome from the Principal
- Letter of welcome from the Chairperson, Parents Association
- Mission Statement
- Vision & Ethos
- Board of Management
- School Rules
- Policies– See Webpage [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie) for all policies– please sign form enclosed and return to the school office
- The School Day
- 
- Home/School Communication
- Book List – Will be available in May - will send out to you and also put on website.
- Art/Crafts/Photocopying Levy - €42 per child.
- **Registration & Consent Forms – please complete & sign. Please remember to include your child's PPS number.**
- **Emergency contact telephone numbers – please complete & sign. This sheet will be kept in your child's file in his or her classroom in case we may need to contact you urgently.**
- **Full Birth Certificate/Baptismal Certificate (where applicable) required – these will be photocopied and returned to you immediately.**



Dunderrow National School  
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Kinsale  
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Principal: Mary Cottrell Deputy Principal: Helen O'Callaghan

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very warm welcome to Dunderrow National School, a 250 co-educational centre of primary education. We hope that your child will be extremely happy here.

Our school is noted for its inclusiveness and caring ethos and is a happy and safe place where every child matters.

We have a wonderful staff and a dedicated and committed Board of Management, Parents Association and a supportive local community. This allows for a well-resourced learning environment where you can be assured of our full co-operation and commitment at all times. Cherishing all children equally we strive to nurture, educate and socialise our next generation of young people. We are proud of our high academic standards to which we always aspire. Children are given every opportunity to experience all aspects of a broad and balanced curriculum within the school day. A number of after school activities are also made available to children e.g swimming, music, sport, homework club etc.

Should you have any queries or concerns at any time please feel free to come and talk to us.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

*Máire Bn Úi Choitréil*  
*Príomh Oide*

## Dunderrow National School: Parents Association



The Parents Association would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new pupils and their parents to Dunderrow National School. We are sure that your time with the school will be very pleasant and fulfilling.

Your ideas and support will be crucial in helping to make the Parents Association a success.

***REMEMBER YOU ARE THE ASSOCIATION SO PLEASE DO GET INVOLVED***

### **Parents Association 2018 - 2019**

Catherine Moynihan/Julie McNamara - Chairpersons

Christine Dinneen - Secretary

Niamh Boyle - Treasurer

Siobhain O'Regan, Ber Kiely, Anna Boyd, Martin Hurley, Dervla Kelly, Mercedes Bertoletti, Nicola Whelan, Róisín Treacy, Sinead Daly, Geraldine Griffin, Cat O'Sullivan, Mary Roche, Mary Bowman, Fiona Cunningham & Claire Lynch

The role of the **Parents Association** is to work with both the parents and the school to enhance the educational, social and personal development of the children at the school.

These goals are achieved in a variety of ways.

\* Fundraising to support different activities ongoing in the school e.g. school building project, I.T, swimming, Irish dancing, French lessons, new reading programme and school tours. Funds have also been used to purchase items such as the school jackets, new sports Jerseys and music equipment.

\*Representing the views of parents where an issue arises at the school.

\*Supporting school initiatives e.g. Active School, Healthy Promotion, Anti-bullying etc.

\*Working with the school to provide support when required for various events such as the book sale, First Holy Communion and Confirmation etc.

The AGM is usually held in September/October. This is a great way of finding out what is on the school agenda for the year.

We look forward to meeting you all.

Regards and thanks,

*Catherine Moynihan & Julie McNamara*  
*Chairpersons*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Dunderrow National School is a Catholic primary school, which strives to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed.

While Dunderrow National School is a school with a Christian ethos, it also has recognition for all other religions.

Education for citizenship – both as Irish and Europeans – will form an important part of the overall education of the child. The civilisation and culture of his/her native land are part of every child's birthright.

*Chuipe sin, cothófar atmaisféar Gaelach sa scoil.*  
(*In the school, we promote a positive attitude to the Irish language*)

Dunderrow N.S. will strive to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of teachers through staff development programmes.

Dunderrow N.S. will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible.

Dunderrow N. S. is a school where all children, whatever their ability, race or creed are cherished for their uniqueness.

Dunderrow N.S. promotes gender equity amongst the teachers and pupils.

The school motto is: ***Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.***  
(***Praise the youth and it will come***)

## **OUR VISION**

Our School seeks to give **equal opportunity** to all children to reach their full potential – academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

The staff of Dunderrow National School seeks actively, through word and action, to create a happy climate of physical, emotional, social and intellectual security for students, staff and parents/guardians. In this way teaching and learning can take place within the context of mutual valuing and respecting relationships.

The teachers of Dunderrow National School see education not just as providing students with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the all round development of the individual.

**We believe each child has a unique and special contribution to make. We believe every child matters.**

We strive to develop independence in our students together with the ability to self evaluate, self motivate and internalise discipline. We want our students to be happy with themselves, others and their world.

We want our pupils to enjoy school.

We endeavour to achieve quality in all that we do.

These aspirations can only be achieved through the co-operation of students, teachers, support staff, parents/guardians, Board of Management and Parish.

## **OUR ETHOS.**

We seek to promote an ethos, which is:

Welcoming, tolerant, open, listening, safe, caring, inclusive, aesthetically pleasing and fun.

We are proactive in our efforts to achieve this environment through our language and our actions. The teachers see parents/guardians as partners in this process.

## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:**

The school is run by the Board of Management.

The Board is made up of :

**8 people: 2 Patron's/Diocesan nominees.**

**2 members of the teaching staff (one of whom is the Principal), 2 Parents representatives and 2 Community representatives.**

The Board of Management has a four-year term.

The members of the **Board of Management** of Dunderrow National School are:

Chairperson:	Eamon Judge	(Patron's Nominee)
Secretary:	Mary Cottrell	(Recording Secretary - Principal)
Treasurer:	Eileen Morriarty	(Community Rep)

### ***Other Board Members:***

Siobhain Long	(Parent's Rep.)
Brendan Kellett	(Community Rep)
Mary Stanley	(Patron's Rep)
Ellen Sheehan	(Teacher's Rep)
Bill Thuillier	(Parent's Rep)

The Board of Managements roles and responsibilities include:

- The Board and the Patron – It is the duty of the Board of Management to manage the school on behalf of the Patron (Bishop John Buckley).
- The Board as an Employer – The Board of Management is an Employer of Teachers and other Staff in the school.
- School Planning - It is the responsibilities of the Board to arrange for the preparation of a school plan and to ensure that it is regularly reviewed and updated.
- School Self Evaluation – School Self Evaluation as outlined by the D.E.S is ongoing central to school improvement.
- Teacher & Learning – The Board in conjunction with the Principal should play a key role in maintaining & improving standards in the school.
- Management of Resources – The Board will ensure the efficient use of resources and state funds in the school.
- School Policies – The Board has overall responsibilities for school policies.
- Child Protection – It is the duty of the Board of Management to ensure that Child Protection & Welfare Considerations are in place in the school.
- Code of Behavior / Anti-Bullying – The Board must ensure that a Code of Behavior has been drawn up and is signed by all parents.



# Dunderrow National School

## SCHOOL RULES

A healthy home-school relationship contributes immensely to the intellectual, social and personal advancement of the child.

In the interest of good order in the school the following rules apply:

1. Children are encouraged to wear school uniform and to label all jumpers.
2. Official school hours are 9.00 a.m. – 2.40 p.m. – outside of those hours children are the responsibility of their parents unless while on school-organized activities.
3. Infant class hours are 9.00 a.m. – 1.40 p.m.
4. Pupils are not allowed out on the road during school hours (unless with the express permission of a teacher).
5. Parents are requested to meet their children at the gate – not at the car.  
Children awaiting buses will embark/disembark at designated bus area.
6. Pupils are encouraged to move, speak and behave in a mannerly way on the school premises.
7. The eating of 'junk food' at school is discouraged. *See Healthy Eating Policy on school website [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie)*
8. Children should not swing on safety barriers or handrails inside the main gate.
9. The school is not responsible for personal belongings left behind by pupils.
10. We would ask the full co-operation of parents in all matters pertaining to school behaviour. (see code of behaviour on website [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie))
11. Neither the school nor the teachers can assume any responsibility for children's behaviour outside of school hours.
12. It is important that any factors, which may affect the child's progress at school, be brought to the teacher's notice.
13. All children are encouraged to be punctual.
14. For an absence, a written note will be required, duly signed and dated.



# WELCOME TO Dunderrow National School

## BACKGROUND:

Dunderrow National School was built in the year 2000. An extension was completed in 2008 consisting of four new classrooms, a computer room and a staff room. In 2013 a further classroom and Learning Support were added.

It is a co-educational school catering for children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class under the auspices of the Dioceses of Cork & Ross.

At present there are 251 pupils.

## The staff is made up of:

Mrs Mary Cottrell	Principal
Ms Ellen-Maria Glavin	Deputy Principal/Mainstream Class Teacher
Mrs Anne-Marie Barry	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mrs Helen O'Callaghan	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mr Paul O'Sullivan	Mainstream Class Teacher
Ms Ellen Sheehan	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mrs Jennifer Molan	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mr John Cottrell	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mrs Leonora Horan	Mainstream Class Teacher
Mrs Mary Gibbons	SEN Team
Mrs Jennifer Murphy	SEN Team
Mrs Olivia Sisk	SEN Team
Mrs Katrina O'Leary	SEN Team
Mrs Vicky Phelan	SNA
Mrs Ann Moynihan	SNA
Mrs Niamh Cunningham	SNA
Ms Janine Urquhart	SNA

## Ancillary Staff

Ms Angela O'Connell	Secretary
MCG Cleaning Services	

## School Building comprises of

- 9 Mainstream Classrooms – all en-suite
- 1 GPR
- 2 Learning Support Rooms
- 1 Sensory Room
- Computer Room
- Staff Room
- Office
- Principal's Office

## Policies

We have a great deal of Policies dealing with pastoral, administrative and curricular areas and if you wish to view them, just ask and we can make an appointment for you or log on to our website [www.dunderrowns.ie](http://www.dunderrowns.ie)

Please see webpage [www.dunderrowns.ie](http://www.dunderrowns.ie) for the following Policies;

School Code of Behaviour Policy  
Homework Policy  
Enrolment Policy  
Healthy Lunches  
Anti-Bullying Policy  
Acceptable Usage Policy  
Child Protection Policy

### THE SCHOOL DAY:

<b>Junior &amp; Senior Infants:</b>	<b>9.00 a.m. – 1.40 p.m.</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class:</b>	<b>9.00 a.m. – 2.40 p.m.</b>
<b>Morning Break:</b>	<b>10.50 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.</b>
<b>Lunch Break:</b>	<b>12.30 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.</b>

*Children will be given 5 minutes before each break to eat their lunch in class.*

**Your child should be dropped and collected within 10 minutes of these school times. No responsibility is accepted for children on the premises outside these times as they are not covered by school insurance**

### PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE:

The children are expected to be punctual and to attend school everyday. Good school attendance is crucial to your child's progress.

We ask that you are **on time** picking up your child daily. Infant Teachers have other duties to perform and a small child's trust is shattered if he/she is left waiting.

### SAFETY UNDERPINS EVERYTHING

In the interests of **safety** and the fostering of **independence** children are encouraged to say 'Good bye' to their parents /guardians at the school gate. They know their own classroom and are expected to take responsibility for their own coats, bags, and lunches.

Junior Infants may be accompanied by a parent/guardian until they feel secure enough to come in on their own. This often happens more quickly with children rather than the parents!

## TRAFFIC: Road Safety - Collecting/dropping off children:

Parents/guardians are urged to park showing due consideration to other road users

The issue of safety and accessibility to the school causes problems each year. While there is no immediate or ideal solution to this problem there are certain steps that we can all take to make the drop off and collection of children safer.

- ❑ Park carefully and please observe the few basic simple rules of the road especially regarding road markings.
- ❑ Also talk to your children about safety and the need to be extra vigilant when entering and leaving the school.
- ❑ We will also speak to the classes about safety “coming to” and “leaving school.”
- ❑ The roundabout is for **WHEELCHAIR ACCESS** and **TURNING ONLY**.
- ❑ Marked spaces at the roundabout are for **STAFF PARKING ONLY**. Please do not block these spaces.
- ❑ **DO NOT PARK** or **DROP OFF CHILDREN** at the roundabout.
- ❑ Care needs to be taken by both children and parents near the Yellow Box Junction.
- ❑ Children should board and exit the bus in the designated area only. **Do NOT park in this area. This area is for the BUS ONLY.**
- ❑ **Please drive slowly when approaching and leaving the school.**

### Exceptional Collections during school hours:

If your child has to leave school during school hours, it is essential that you notify the class teacher *in writing*. Your note must always *be signed*.

*Your child must always be collected from the classroom if leaving during school hours.*

*(Education Act)*

### **CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED BY AN ADULT IF THEY ARE LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY.**

Children will not be released into the care of another juvenile.

Please state clearly who will be collecting your child. The parent/guardian collection your child must sign the child out on the book located outside the secretary's office.

We do this solely in the interest of each child's safety.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM -**

Navy	Track suit pants (available at many retail outlets) for boys Skirt/Pinafore for girls
Grey	Sweat shirt with school crest (available from Kinsale Sports Store)
Blue	Polo Shirt with school crest (available from Kinsale Sports Store)
Footwear	Parental choice. Two pairs required - one outdoor and one indoor. Indoor shoes must have <b>non-marking</b> soles.

To reduce competition and increase pride in their school uniform we expect children to wear their **COMPLETE** uniform **everyday**.

### **HELPFUL HINTS:**

- Velcro runners are easier than lace ups.
- **Please label all clothing, bags and lunch boxes, as most are identical.**

- If there is a situation at home which you think may affect your child's progress/mood / behaviour in school please inform your child's teacher or the Principal. This is really helpful for us in understanding your child's individual needs. (This information will be treated with respect and in confidence.)

## **Text a Parent**

We make use of Text a Parent. It has proven itself to be a great success during the school year. It does "cost," so we will use it only when the need arises. It is up to each family to ensure that mobile numbers are kept updated and if you do not receive the text please let us know. Traditional forms of home/school communication will continue. One of our most popular forms of information presently is the school based website: [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie)

## **MOBILE PHONES:**

Pupils are strictly forbidden to use mobile phones in the school. *See Mobile Phone – Electronic Games Policy.*

Children, who carry mobile phones, are required to turn them off during school time and to leave them in their school bag or with the Teacher until home time. If children are found not to adhere to this school policy phones will be confiscated.

*If you need to contact your child during school hours, please do so through the school Secretary.*

## **Digital Audio/Gaming Devices**

MP3's, I-pods, PSP's, Discman, Nintendo DS and other such digital devices are to be left at home. If children are found not to adhere to this school policy, then these devices will be confiscated.

## **LUNCHES:**

Choose a lunch box and beaker that can be easily opened. Please label both.

As part of our **Health Education Programme** we have a **Healthy Eating Policy** (*See Website [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie)*). We encourage children to bring a healthy lunch i.e. sandwich, cheese, fruit, yogurt, milk or fruit juice.

A small treat is allowed on **Fridays only** e.g. biscuit, bun or small bar. Nourishing foods are encouraged.

**Crisps, fizzy drinks & junk food ARE NOT ALLOWED.** For safety reasons glass bottles and chewing gum are forbidden.

***N.B: Children periodically are prone to an allergic reactions to foods i.e Nut Allergy/eggs/dairy. As part of accepted good practice and with advice from the Department of Education and Skills, relevant voluntary organisations and the School's Board of Management we would recommend that:***

***Children eat their OWN lunch – do not share food. Children are allocated time to eat lunch before play. 5 to 10 minutes is adequate for the majority if children but we do appreciate that a minority eat more slowly. Children are also encouraged to take a portion of lunch outside e.g sandwich, piece of fruit etc.***

***Note: in order that you know what your child has eaten, each child brings home the remains of their lunch box.***

## LITTER:

We encourage the children to take responsibility for their environment and to be **litter conscious**. This is a great help in keeping their school tidy. We work towards heightening in them a sense of respect towards the environment. Our 1<sup>st</sup> class “Rubbish Monsters” keep a vigilant eye on keeping our school grounds in pristine condition and won the Local Tidy Schools Award this year.



## HEALTH & MEDICATION:



Dunderrow National School has been awarded ***Health Promoting School*** status from the HSE. (Health Service Executive)

**It is the policy (see Administration of Medicine Policy on website [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie)) of the school not to administer any medications to children unless a specific health care plan is in place. The Board of Management will be happy to facilitate Parents/Guardians needing to give medication to their child if required under such a plan. Please contact the Principal if there is a specific medical condition where a ‘health care plan’ is necessary.**

If your child has a particular health problem e.g. eyesight, hearing, toilet related problem, asthma etc. please inform the school.

## DISABILITIES:

**If a child has any physical or health problems the Principal should be informed when the child is being enrolled.** Should a problem develop the Principal should be told immediately. In this way appropriate provisions can be put in place. **The above information will be treated with respect and confidence.**

## CHILDREN UNWELL IN SCHOOL:

When the Principal feels that a child is not well enough for school either as a result of becoming sick or an accident, the Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately.

**This highlights the importance of filling out the contact form. (See Appendix 2)**  
**If your address or phone number changes please notify the school immediately, so we can amend our records.**

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE:**

Please notify the school if your child is diagnosed with an infectious disease.

## **ABSENCE AND SICKNESS:**

As we have already stated, regular attendance is crucial to your child's progress. However, children do, from time to time, get sick.

In accordance with the **Educational Welfare Act** the school has a duty to report any child who has missed **20 days** or more in one academic year. **The Principal has no discretion in this.**

**Parents/Guardians are now obliged by law to provide a written explanation on their child's absence to the school.**

## **DO NOT SEND A SICK CHILD TO SCHOOL**

**If your child is well enough to come to school but you prefer that he/she not go out to play in the school yard, you must notify the school in writing.** Exceptions are made in the case of ongoing or chronic illness and limb injuries. Otherwise **all children are expected to go to the yard** as it is a vital part of social interaction.

## **HEAD LICE:**

Head lice are occasional visitors in all schools! So check your child's hair regularly (i.e. at least once a week) for head lice. Please report it to the school so that we can alert others. Lotions and shampoos are readily available from your local pharmacy.

## **CURRICULAR SUBJECTS:**

In 1999 a new revised Curriculum was introduced into Irish Primary Schools. The Curriculum has been implemented.

The Primary School Curriculum consists of **6** Curriculum areas and these are further divided into **11** subjects.

Your child will be learning in the following areas and subjects:

1. **Language:** Gaeilge & English.
2. **Mathematics:** Mathematics.
3. **Social, Environmental & Scientific Education (S.E.S.E):** History, Geography & Science.
4. **Arts Education:** Music, Visual Arts and Drama.
5. **Physical Education (P.E):** Physical Education.
6. **Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E):** Social, Personal and Health Education.

The Curriculum aims to ensure that **all** children are provided with learning opportunities that recognise and celebrate their uniqueness, develop their full potential and prepare them to meet the challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The focus is on the child as a learner.

It is also the aim of the Curriculum to ensure that children's experience of school will lead them to value and enjoy learning as a life long process.

Functional literacy, numeracy, and the ability to articulate well are stressed.

It encourages greater attention to be given to children with Special Educational Needs; the needs of gifted children are also stressed.

## **Literacy & Numeracy**

In 2011, the Department of Education & Skills published their strategy to increase Numeracy & Literacy standards nationwide.

The aims of the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy are:

- Increase the percentage of primary children performing at Level 3 and Level 4 (the highest levels) in the National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading by at least 5% at both second class and sixth class by 2020.
- Reduce the percentage of children performing at or below Level 1 (minimum) in the National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading by at least 5% at both second class and sixth class by 2020.

As part of the Department of Education and Skills (DES) Strategy to increase literacy & numeracy standards in the country each school has been asked to evaluate its results to date in Maths and English (Sigma T and Micra T) annually. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class results in Literacy & Numeracy are now submitted to the D.E.S on an annual basis.

## **Homework**

Each child in 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes has an official School Class Diary. Please check that homework has been written down and is completed each night.

*Remember: We cannot emphasise enough that the learning homework, for example English and Irish spellings, tables, poems etc., are equally as important as the written activities that are allocated to your child.*

**Standards of literacy and numeracy for children are greatly enhanced when a child has developed competency in spelling, poetry and maths tables.**

## **Sherpa Kids**

We are delighted that Sherpa Kids in Dunderrow NS had a great Term 1. Sherpa Kids offer before and after school care for children of Dunderrow NS. For more details please visit [www.sherpakids.ie](http://www.sherpakids.ie) or email [dunderrow@shepakids.ie](mailto:dunderrow@shepakids.ie). We would also like to acknowledge the good work being carried out by the local preschools in the Kinsale Area, It is much appreciated.

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## **MONEY MATTERS:**

### **Materials & Equipment Voluntary levy for this year:**

**Photocopying/Art/Crafts/Copybooks, Pencils etc: €42**  
**Paid at beginning of school year or on Open Day in March for Junior Infants**

A simple breakdown of the levy is outlined below:

Text a Parent Costs, Childrens' Class Diary, Storage Box, Paints, Clay, Paint Brushes, Colouring Pencils & Crayons, Photocopying, Drawing Paper, Scissors, Glue, Craft Paper, Pastels, Pencils for the year – including special hand hugger type for Junior & Senior Infants, Erasers and Pencil Sharpeners. Junior & Senior Infants also require special types of copies.

## **FUNDRAISERS:**

Annually we have fund raising activities in order that we may provide your child with the truly “all round” education we see as crucial to developing his/her potential.

These include:

- **Children's Autumn School Walk**
- **Cake Sale – 6<sup>th</sup> Class French**

*Other events organised by Parents Association during the school year i.e.*

- **Christmas Raffle**
- **Cookery Book**
- **Easter Coin Egg**
- **Booksale**
- **Table Quiz**
- **5km Fun Run**

The proceeds raised from these items are used to fund a variety of activities for example: the cost of buses, field trips, purchasing sets of readers for each classroom, music equipment and sports equipment. Monies are also used to subsidise the cost of music, Irish Dancing and French classes. They also help contribute towards the cost of outside tutors/speakers that visit the school during the school year.

We depend on your generosity and support to make these fund raisers a success.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT.**

The school has the services of a fully qualified Learning Support Teaching Team (SEN Team). Early identification of learning difficulties is crucial in their remediation. All children from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class are regularly screened through the administration of standardised and observational tests. Parental consultation and support is a vital aspect of our learning support programme.

## **AISTEAR**

Aistear is the early childhood curriculum framework for all children from birth to six years in Ireland. Aistear emphasises the importance of play based methodology in supporting children's learning and development. Aistear recognises that children do not compartmentalize their learning into subject areas, but allows children to explore many subject areas under common themes, e.g the theme of “winter”, “our home”, “at the doctor”, “on the farm etc. The main aspects of play during Aistear are (i) small world play (ii) construction (iii) art (iv) socio-dramatic and (v) modelling.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS.**

Should your child have Special Education Needs he/she may qualify for extra help with our SEN Team.

### **EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT:**

An Educational Psychologist from N.E.P.S. (National Educational Psychological Services) is available to carry out a limited number of **Educational Assessments** on children with specific educational needs. This is a consultative collaborative process between Parents and the school.

### **INTER CULTURAL EDUCATION.**

We are delighted to have among our students a number of children from other cultures and backgrounds.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING.**

*The safety of the children is of primary importance at all times.*

Should an emergency closing be appropriate (e.g. in the event of no heat, snow etc.) the decision to close the school will be taken by the Board of Management at the earliest possible time so as to maximise notice to Parents/Guardians.

### **WE ASK THAT YOU ENSURE THE SCHOOL ALWAYS HAS AN UP-TO-DATE AND IMMEDIATE CONTACT NUMBER FOR YOU.**

Children walking to & from school alone should always be aware of the person whom they should contact in the event that Parents/Guardians not being at home on their return.

If an emergency closing arises early in the morning, before school starts, Parents/Guardians will be informed of this at the gates. We would ask therefore that you **never drop your child without first satisfying yourself that the school is open.**

A message on the Private Notice Board of the APP will be sent to keep you informed of developments. Please also take note of events on our external school notice board.

### **Contingency arrangements in the event of unforeseen school closures**

The Department of Education and skills have recognised that there is a need to include greater flexibility and to provide for contingency arrangements within the standardised school year to deal with unforeseen school closures. Contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to extensive or prolonged unforeseen school closures will now be:

The Easter break may be reduced by up to three days by the school remaining open up to and including Wednesday immediately preceding the Easter weekend. All schools must be closed for the remainder of the Easter break. The Board of Management takes into account the need to provide adequate notice of any changes to the school calendar to pupil's parents and staff. It should be made clear that the school calendar (available on the website) could be subject to change as part of the contingency arrangements to make up for time lost.

## **THE FIRST DAY:**

Start with a good breakfast. Come to the class on time on the day. Give a hug, say good-bye, and give an assurance that you will collect him/her at the proper time.

**Then leave!** Almost all children are busy and happy within minutes of their parents leaving.

**For the first two weeks your child (Junior Infants) will have a short day going home at 12.00 , so give a small healthy lunch.**

Junior Infants are usually very tired when they start school first, so please help them by making sure they go to bed early.

Towards the end of September (week 3) the children will be in school for the full infant day;

9.00 a.m. – 1.40 p.m.

At 1.40 p.m. the teachers will bring the children out to the school gate.

**Please ensure you are on time. Your child's ability to separate from you will be enhanced if they know you will be there on time.**

Please wait for your child's turn to come out.

## **THE FIRST YEAR:**

**Starting school is a milestone in the life of your child.**

You can help to make this transition easier for your child by providing safe opportunities for him/her to spend time away from you and with other children in order to learn how to share and take turns. Your child will have an opportunity to visit the classroom/school on Open Day and will thus be familiar with the school setting.

**All children are different:**

In school we encourage each child to do his/her best through individual, group and whole class activities. All **children learn at their own pace**. Just as children walk and talk at different stages, they also read and write when they are ready.

**Formal reading** is not undertaken until year 2 i.e. Senior Infants.

**HELP YOUR CHILD TO BE INDEPENDENT by training him/her:**

1. To use the toilet, wash and dry hands without help.
2. To put on and take off his/her coat and do and undo buttons and zips.
3. To be able to put on his/her own shoes. To be able to fasten and unfasten them.
4. To open and close schoolbags, lunch boxes and drink containers.
5. To use a tissue/handkerchief when needed.
6. To recognise his/her own belongings.

## **WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD TO GROW:**

- 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.
- Repeat Nursery Rhymes.
- Identify colours and shapes.
- Provide paper, crayons and paints for colouring and scribbling.
- Provide jigsaws, lego, play dough etc.
- Help him/her to cut out using safe scissors.
- Allow sand and water play.
- Have fun together.
- Praise his/her efforts at every opportunity.
- Don't criticise.

If children feel you have confidence in them they will feel they can achieve.

**In short, do as little to or for your child and as much with your child as possible.  
Education is a life long journey. We want your child's first steps to be as positive as possible.  
Join us as we walk the path of learning together.**

## **CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE.**

*If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,*

*He learns to find love in the world.*

## CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



### SPORT

#### **Swimming – Parents Association**

Arrangements have been made for swimming at Bishopstown Leisure Centre again this year by the Parents Association. You will be updated at the beginning of each term.

As part of the P.E whole school programme for aquatics swimming will be organised for 3<sup>rd</sup> class in Term 3. More info to follow.

#### **G.A.A:**



We participate in school competitions in indoor football & hurling. Sciath na Scol football competitions for boys and girls in the senior classes took place in Term 1. Children participate in Local Interschool Leagues in hurling/camogie in Term 3. We are lucky to have a number of teachers in the school who give of their time training both in and after school hours. Also I would like to thank Eli-Lilly for the use of their facilities for training and Kinsale GAA Club who have given great support to the local schools.

#### **Tag Rugby:**

Tag rugby is taught to 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Coach is facilitated by the IRFU. Four-week blocks are given for each class.

Other block sports that are often organised for a number of classes are;

Hockey	Zumba
Soccer	Gymnastics
Skip-Hop	Playball

The school holds an annual Sports Day where everybody is encouraged to take part in a variety of sporting and novelty events.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

#### **School Tours**

All classes participate in organised class tours each year. See *School Outing Policy*.

#### **Field Trips**

A number of educational trips are organised for each class annually e.g. Farran Wood, Science Workshop, Mobile Pet Farm, Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre, Charles Fort, Local Geography, Riverbank Workshop and History trails. These can vary from year to year. See *School Outing Policy*



**Dance:**

Irish dancing is taught on Friday's to all age groups by Ms Eileen O'Dwyer & Nicola O'Dwyer.

**Tin Whistle:**

Tin whistle is taught by the class teachers in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

**French:**

Ms Natasha Farley teaches French, one hour per week to Rang 6.

**After School Music:**

Ms Emma Fitzgerald teaches after school piano classes.

**Computers**

A comprehensive computer programme has been developed in the school, where children are taught computer skills and computer technology is used as a teaching aid. The school has been awarded the Digital School of Distinction Plaque for its I.T. Programme.

**Discover Primary Science and Maths Initiative**

All children enjoy a full programme of science. Classes will participate in the Discover Primary Science and Maths initiative. Discover Primary Science and Maths is a flagship project run by the Discover Science & Engineering (DSE) awareness programme. DSE is managed by Science Foundation Ireland on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation. The programme aims to develop creativity in our children, show them how important science is to our everyday lives and more importantly how much fun it can be!

We are also very grateful to Eli Lilly who provide a science morning for the children in Rang 6 each year in November. We will keep you in touch with any initiatives in relation to science that children will be participating in throughout the year. 5<sup>th</sup> class children are currently participating in the STEAM Initiative in conjunction with Eli Lilly.

Engineers Week in March will also be an active part of our school calendar.

**Christmas Concert:** The annual Christmas Concert gives the pupils an opportunity to demonstrate their cultural flair to their Parents

**COMPETITIONS****Scór na bPáistí**

Dunderrow National School Set Dancers, Figure Dancers, Quiz Team, Solo Singers and Ballad Group take part in Scór na bPáistí.

**Credit Union Children's Quiz** – School participates annually

**Local Art Competitions:** Credit Union, “Positive Ageing” Haven Bay Retirement Facility, St Patricks Day Art.

## **HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

### **AIMS/PURPOSES**

1. To recognise the importance of support from the home in education.
2. To ensure that parents are at all times aware of their children's progress/problems.

Frequent communication is of vital importance in developing and nurturing co-operation between home and school. *In our school, communication between parents and teachers may take one of the following forms:*

1. **Individual consultation:** This occurs where a parent has asked for an interview with the Principal or with a teacher. Periodically parents are invited to visit the school to exchange information or to discuss matters of concern. A note or telephone call to the Principal or class teacher requesting such an appointment is always essential. It is also necessary that the purpose of the visit be stated so that the Principal or teachers may undertake whatever preparation is necessary with regard to information and records.
2. **Parent/Teacher Meetings** – one to one group meetings. One formal meeting is held in November. These meetings afford parents an opportunity to discuss the academic and social progress of their children in private with the class teacher. Parents are welcome to arrange meetings with the Principal or class teacher during the year, however, these meetings will be “*by appointment only*” to avoid disruption of class.
3. **Reports.** End of school year written progress reports are furnished to parents of all students in June.
4. **Circulars/School Policies** are readily available on display in the Office for parental viewing and also on our web page [www.dunderrow.ie](http://www.dunderrow.ie) (Our website was awarded Star Site from Scoilnet Star Site and also commended by Digiweb). Policies are ratified by the Board of Management and are available to the Parents Association on request also.
5. **Homework Diary** – homework is recorded daily by children in 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.
6. **School Books** – School books maybe purchased in our Book Sale in early June. Dunderrow N.S also has a Book Rental Scheme where you can rent certain books at a reduced cost and return to the school at the end of the school year.
7. **New Junior Infants** – An Open Evening is held in January for parents of the new Junior Infants pupils to meet and view our school. In March we have our usual “meet & greet” morning where children can meet with their class teacher, view classroom etc.
8. **Holidays** - Details of school holidays or early school closures, where known, are always communicated in writing in early September.
9. **Upcoming Events** - Notes on upcoming events are furnished to parents approximately 1 week in advance. Please ensure to check child's diary or schoolbag.
10. **Notice-board** – at school gate will keep parents informed of school activities.
11. **School website:** [www.dunderrowns.ie](http://www.dunderrowns.ie) School APP
12. **Messages from APP** short messages will be relayed to you on Private Message Board on APP
13. **SCHOOL OFFICE NO: 021- 4774041** email [info@dunderrow.ie](mailto:info@dunderrow.ie)

We hope your child's years spent at Dunderrow National School will be extremely happy and will help him/her to grow in all that is positive and good.

*Parvis e glandibus quercus –  
Great oaks from little acorns grow*