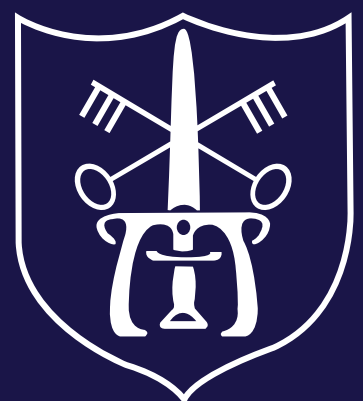




**ST. MARY'S BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL
BOOTERSTOWN**

"Mol An Óige"







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Introduction to our School

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

St. Mary's B.N.S. has been providing education for over 150 years in the community of Booterstown. The school was originally established in 1852 on Grotto Avenue. In 1968 an entirely new school was built in Grotto Place. The original school building now serves as a school hall. Recent years have seen a steady increase in enrolment and a parallel investment in school infrastructure and resources.

OUR ETHOS

The ethos of St. Mary's encompasses collective attitudes, beliefs, core values, traditions, aspirations and goals. These are reflected in the actual practices which are carried out in the school on a daily, weekly and yearly basis.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions and cultures.

St. Mary's strives to promote both individually and collectively the professional and personal development of staff through development programmes so that the needs of pupils can be identified, nurtured and addressed.

St. Mary's encourages the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through the Parents' Association.

St. Mary's strives to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, and will through its efforts model respect and courtesy.

St. Mary's promotes equality of opportunity so far as is practicable.



OUR AIMS

- To enable the child live a full life as a child
- To equip each boy to avail of further education that he may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society
- To enable each boy to know and value himself and to form objective recognised standards of judgement and behaviour by learning through experience to live and co-operate with other children and adults, and gradually become familiar with the complete nature of the society of which they are part
- The development for each child of the basic skills needed for communication, evaluation and conceptualisation of ideas. Among the most important are reading, writing, speaking and computational skills.
- The provision for each boy to nurture interests and develop natural talent through varied school and supplementary opportunities
- The expansion of the spiritual growth of the child in co-operation with the family, especially by helping them to identify and cultivate Catholic ethical and moral values.

In St. Mary's, every aspect of what we do is orientated towards achieving these goals. The curriculum, the learning and resource support, the class activities, the assemblies, the teaching and support staff and the additional after-school activities are all carefully planned and designed to meet the needs of our pupils.







The Curriculum

Primary education consists of an eight-year cycle: Junior Infants, Senior Infants, and First to Sixth Classes. The Primary Curriculum aims to provide a broad learning experience and encourages a rich variety of approaches to teaching and learning that cater for the different needs of individual children. The primary curriculum is designed to nurture the child in all dimensions of his life — spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical.

The curriculum is presented in seven areas, some of which are further subdivided into subjects.

These are:

Language: Gaelic and English, Mathematics, Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE): History, Geography and Science, Arts Education: Visual Arts, Music and Drama, Physical Education, Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Religious Education

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

We welcome all pupils, irrespective of their ability or needs, to our school.

At St. Mary's we ensure that special education teaching resources are utilised in the optimum manner to improve learning experiences and educational outcomes for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

If a child is thought to have special educational needs, their parents are informed and invited to discuss the additional help and support that is needed. If it is necessary the school will seek support from NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service). Parents are always fully involved in all stages.

The school is accessible to wheelchair users and a lift allows access to upstairs classrooms.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS

At St. Mary's we endeavour to support children who show signs of high ability in all or some areas of the curriculum by providing teaching which makes learning challenging and enjoyable, thus allowing them to realise their potential.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Some children at St. Mary's speak English as an additional language. These children are offered extra support, if it is needed, from Learning Support teachers who work with them in small groups or in class alongside the class teacher. The teachers are experienced in planning and delivering lessons specifically designed to develop spoken and written English.





MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Monitoring and assessment is an integral part of our teaching and learning. In order to plan effectively, our teachers assess each child's progress. This takes place on a day-to-day basis through talk and questioning and through discussions with children as learning is taking place.

STANDARDISED PROFILING AND TESTING

The B.I.A.P. (Belfield Infant Assessment Profile) is administered in Junior Infants. It allows teachers to address learning difficulties, compile accurate pupil and class profiles, and develop detailed development plans. The Middle Infant Screening Test (MIST) and Forward Together Programme focus on reading, writing and listening skills and together provide a comprehensive screening, diagnostic and recovery package for pupils in Senior Infants. Pupils in 1st – 6th Classes undertake the NGRT (New Group Reading Test) in November and sit the Drumcondra English, Maths and Irish tests each May.

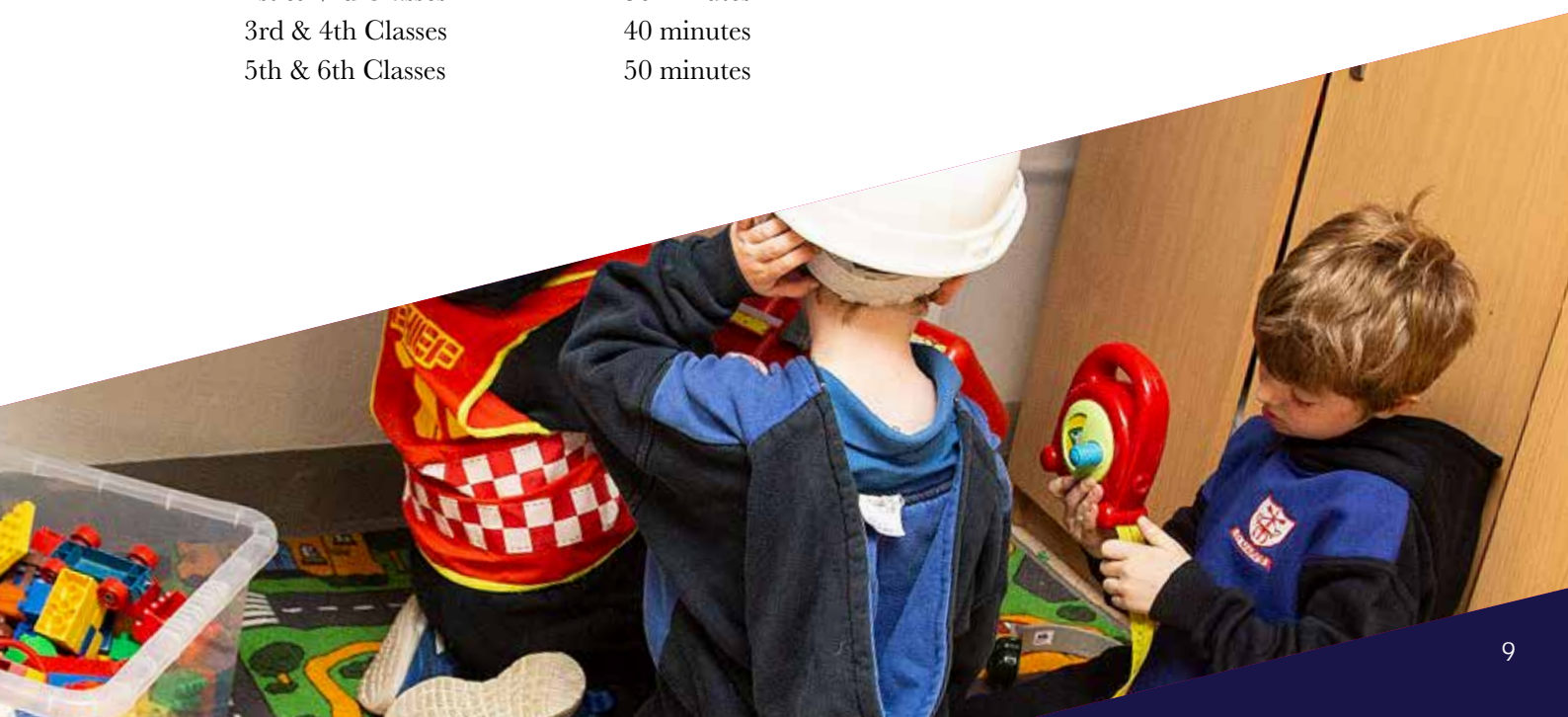
HOMEWORK

We believe there is much that can be done at home to support the work covered in school, and parents are encouraged to take great interest in their children's homework. All children at St. Mary's complete some form of homework on a daily basis. Our main aims in setting homework are to:

- Improve the child's performance as a learner
- Reinforce and build on concepts taught in school
- Encourage the development of good work habits which will prepare the children for their future schooling
- Inform and share with parents topics being taught and the skills developed by their child

Recommended homework completion times:

Infants	20 minutes
1st & 2nd Classes	30 minutes
3rd & 4th Classes	40 minutes
5th & 6th Classes	50 minutes







Extra-Curricular Activities

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Some of the after-school activities at St. Mary's include sports, art, chess, homework club and Gaelge. These activities are planned to enrich, extend and involve the children in a variety of activities. A charge is made to cover the costs incurred.

SCHOOL OUTINGS

Boosterstown and surrounding areas offer an abundance of opportunities to take learning out of the classroom. Taking into account the age and interests of the children and the curriculum being covered, school outings are arranged by the school to present the children with a new environment in which they can observe, investigate and relate their findings to their own environment.

SPORTS

At St. Mary's we want our pupils to enjoy and benefit from their school experience and for many children participating in sport is central to this. It develops skills, but also self-esteem, fitness and friendship. There are many sporting opportunities for participation and involvement here at St. Mary's B.N.S. for its pupils. The school was recently rewarded the Active Schools Flag (ASF).

Tennis

A 10-week course of tennis instruction, given by professional coaches, is organised for pupils in Senior Infants – 2nd Class. This takes place in the school yard or in the Old School Hall in the event of inclement weather.

Swimming

The school organises swimming lessons for pupils in 1st - 6th Classes during the school year. Aquatics is named as a discrete subject in the curriculum.

Cycling

A 6-week cycle safety training course is provided annually by Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown County Council for pupils in 5th Class.



COMPETITIVE SPORTS AT ST. MARY'S

Athletics

The school team competes annually in the Cumann na mBunscol Athletics competition held in Santry Stadium. The boys learn, practise and compete in shot putt, hurdles, sprints, relays, long distance, long and high jump events. Our school has a long-standing tradition of success in this competition.

Gaelic Games

St. Mary's have both Junior and Senior Gaelic football and hurling teams who represent the school in the Cumann na mBunscol leagues. Under the direction of their teachers, the boys are taught the fundamental components of Gaelic football and hurling - skills development, teamwork and participation. Both Senior teams have experienced great success in Croke Park.

Tennis

The school's tennis teams participate in the Leinster Primary School's League each year.

Golf

The school golf team participates in the The Castle Cup Tournament each year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

One of the ways we encourage and promote the 'pupil voice' in St. Mary's is through the Student Council. Two elected children represent each class from 2nd – 6th classes. The School Council meets regularly with a designated member of staff to discuss their learning and other areas of school life which the children feel could be improved. Areas they have influenced include fund-raising ideas and improvements for the playground.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Each class elects pupils to be part of the Green Schools committee. The committee meets regularly to discuss our action plans in relation to achieving our green flags. We have been awarded flags such as Litter and Waste, Water, Travel, Energy and Biodiversity.

ACTIVE FLAG

Members of the Active Flag committee work to promote healthy and active living in our school. Each class is represented on the committee who meet regularly to organise and implement active challenges throughout the school year and during Active Week.

DISCOVER PRIMARY SCIENCE AND MATHS

St. Mary's has repeatedly been the recipient the SFI Discover Science and Maths (DPSM) Award for recognition of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) work happening in our school.





HEALTHY EATING

It is widely recognised that healthy eating plays an important role in a child's ability to reach his full potential by helping them in their focus and application. Inattention and disruptive behaviour can often be traced to a poor diet.

As part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) programme at St. Mary's, we encourage the children to become more aware of the need for healthy food in their lunch boxes. In addition, the Physical Education programme supports the physical development and fitness of the children.

St. Mary's is a nut-free school.





The School Parents and Community

We welcome and value the involvement of parents in their children's education and believe that if children are to fulfil their potential, a strong, effective partnership between the home and school needs to be developed and maintained.

There are many opportunities for teachers and parents to build this partnership. Some of these include the following:

- Presentations by class teachers at the beginning of the year to advise parents on the general topics to be taught and methods of teaching
- Formal one-to-one parent meetings are held in November at which pupil progress is discussed
- Mid-year written progress reports are issued to parents in January
- End-of-year written progress reports are issued to parents in June
- Parents are invited to share many of our events such as Christmas plays, Annual Carol Service, Sports Days, Multi-cultural Day, Grandparents' Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

St. Mary's has an active Parents' Association which promotes the well-being of the school. The activities of the Parents' Association provide an organised forum through which parents can make a positive contribution to their children's education.

The Parents' Association plays a very important part in the life of the school and supports the school in every way. All parents are encouraged to become involved and to support the activities and projects that are a feature of our school. For more information visit www.stmarysbnsparents.com

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the year we support a number of charities and special appeals. We do this through fund-raising activities such as non-uniform or jersey days and sponsored walks. Each Christmas the school community supports both the St. Vincent de Paul Food Appeal and Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Other charities that we have supported are: Trocaire, Laura Lynn, Crumlin Children's Hospital, Temple Street Hospital, Irish Guide Dogs, Goal and Bóthar.





General Information

ADMISSIONS POLICY

A copy of the school's current Admissions Policy is available on our website.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are very proud of the smart appearance of our pupils in their school uniform and ask parents to ensure that children come to and from school in their full uniform on days other than PE days.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school commences at 8:35 a.m. For Pupils in Junior Infants and Senior Infants the day ends at 1:15 p.m. For all other pupils, the school ends at 2:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Regular and punctual attendance at school is a prerequisite of a good education. The disruption caused by poor attendance and lateness not only affects the individual pupil but can also affect other pupils and teaching staff.

Individual pupil's attendance and punctuality is recorded on the end-of-year reports. We aim to encourage and achieve high levels of attendance for all pupils and seek to work closely and co-operatively with parents to promote regular and punctual school attendance.

Absence from school: If a child is absent from school, we ask that parents inform the school in writing, the reason for the absence.

Punctuality: Punctuality is expected. Medical and dental appointments should, as far as possible, be made outside school hours. Where this is not possible, parents are asked to inform the class teacher so that their son will not be marked absent.

Term dates are given to parents in advance and the expectation is that holidays are not taken during term time.

INJURIES

If a child has a minor injury, he will be attended to in school. The details of the injury will be filled in the School Accident Book and a copy of such will be sent home. Parents are contacted immediately in the case of serious injuries or illness.



EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURE

A record of all parents' emergency contact numbers (work, home and mobile) as well as email addresses are stored electronically on Aladdin. Parents are reminded of the importance of notifying the school of any changes to these details, so that they can be easily contacted in the event of an emergency.

CHILD PROTECTION

We take very seriously our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children in our care. The Children First Act 2015 requires all school staff to pass on information which raises concern that a child may be at risk from non-accidental injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse. The Principal is the Designated Liaison Person. A copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement is available on the website.

BEHAVIOUR AND EXPECTATIONS

The school's motto is Mol an Óige (Praise the Youth). Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions.

At our School Assemblies 'Nice One' awards are presented to pupils who show kindness to others.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management is made up of a group of volunteers whose role is to ensure that the school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum. They do this by:

- Ensuring the quality of teaching and learning
- Recruitment of staff
- Developing and reviewing the school plan and policies
- Ensuring the efficient use of money and resources
- Upholding the ethos of the school

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If there is something that a parent or guardian is not happy about, they should make an appointment with their child's class teacher. If the issue is not resolved at this meeting, they should make an appointment to meet with the Principal. Every effort will be made to resolve any problems. However, if the complaint needs to be taken further, the school's Board of Management may be contacted.





SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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