



Handbook for New Students
School Year 2014/2015

Scoil Muire Banríon,
Gilroy Avenue,
Edenderry,
Co.Offaly
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Principal: Ms. Nicola McMahon

Deputy Principal: Mr. Shane O'Looney

Principal's Welcome

A warm welcome and many thanks to you for choosing Edenderry Boys National School for your child. We hope that in the coming years, the experience of Edenderry B.N.S. for you and your child will be a good one. Our aim, as outlined in our mission statement, is to enable the child to live a full life as a child and to equip him to avail of further education so that he may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

We endeavour to build on the children's strengths and support them when they encounter difficulties. We recognise that the parents are the primary educators of their children and we depend upon their support and co-operation, together with that of the Board of Management, The Department of Education and Skills and the wider community.

It is our hope that Edenderry Boys National School, along with all the partners in Education can achieve these goals for your child.

Nicola McMahon

Brief introduction to our school

This school, which is located in Gilroy Ave., was built in 1959 and replaced the old Edenderry Boys' National School which was built in 1835. It was one of the few schools at the time to have a purpose built assembly hall. An extension was added to the school in 1996 and a computer room was also added in 2003.

Board of Management

The Board of Management has legal responsibility for the overall running of the school. It serves for a term of four years and a new Board was formed in November 2011. The members of the current board are:

Name	Position	Nominee
Fr PJ McEvoy	Chairman	Patron
Nicola McMahan	Secretary	Principal
Monica Foran	Treasurer	Patron
Charlene Dolan	Member	Teachers
William Farrell	Member	Parents
Martina Harris	Member	Parents
Cyril O' Neill	Member	Community
Kevin Farrell	Member	Community

General Information

School Times

- 9.00a.m. School gates open to admit pupils
(No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 9.00a.m.)
- 9.20a.m School starts
- 11.00 am Break (10 minutes)
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch time
- 1.00p.m. End of Lunch Break
- 3.00p.m. End of school day
- 3-4p.m. Homework club and any extra curricular activities

Car Parking

There is very limited car parking in Gilroy Avenue and the School Lane. Please pass on this information to any person who drops or collects children on your behalf. We encourage children to walk or cycle to school where possible or to engage in a 'Park n Stride' system as part of our Green Flag endeavours.

Contact Numbers

Please ensure that your child's teacher has an up-to-date address and phone number which can be written in the homework journal. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school in writing of any changes in name, address or telephone number. We also need two further contact numbers for emergencies. We will then be able to contact you immediately if your child is sick.

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. Parents of 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.

Primary School Curriculum

The following subjects are taught in all classes as part of the Primary School Curriculum:

English	Science	S.P.H.E.
Gaeilge	Geography	Religion
Mathematics	Drama	Art
History	Music	P.E.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We pride ourselves on the wide variety of extra-curricular activities that are available to our students.

School Band	Hurling	Badminton
School Choir	Green Schools	Athletics
Gaelic Football	French Classes	Rainbows
Soccer	Tag Rugby	

Facilities

We have a designated Computer Lab with 25 computers and an Interactive Whiteboard. All of our classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards and laptops/PCs.

Our Assembly Hall has a stage with lighting and sound equipment making it ideal for staging student performances.

Our Sports Court also provides children with a wonderful opportunity to play in an enclosed safe environment. We have access to a Sports Field located on the School Lane. School sports teams train on this field and we host hurling and football leagues and our Sports Day here also.

We also have a Vegetable Garden that our Homework Club students take care of.

Homework

Parents are encouraged to establish a set routine and time for their child to do their homework, in a quiet place free from distractions. Parents are asked to supervise children's homework, checking and signing the homework journal on completion. Please place a note in your child's homework journal if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Allotted time that teachers expect the average child in each class to spend at homework is as follows:

Second Class	20 minutes
Third Class	30 minutes
Fourth Class	30 minutes
Fifth Class	40 minutes
Sixth Class	1 hour

If your child is spending more time than they should at homework and he is doing his work in a quiet place free from distractions please contact the class teacher at the earliest opportunity.

Homework Club

Homework club runs from 3.00p.m.-4.00p.m on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for pupils as part of the School Completion Programme. Homework club is run and supervised by members of our teaching staff.

Attendance

Please complete an absence note in your child's Homework Journal if they are absent explaining the reason for the absence.

The school needs to be notified in writing, if a child needs to leave school early. No child may leave school without a parent or guardian during school times. If someone other than a parent or guardian is collecting a child, please notify the school in writing. A child who has to leave early has to be collected from their classroom.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Annual Parent Teacher meetings take place in November each year. These meetings occur out of school hours and appointment times will be arranged with you in advance.

Parents wishing to meet with a teacher at any other time of the year to discuss issues arising with their child should telephone the school secretary to arrange an appointment.

School Policies

The following school policies are available on our school website.

Enrolment Policy	Homework Policy
Anti Bullying Policy	Healthy Eating Policy
Code of Behaviour	Acceptable Use Policy
Child Protection Policy	Supervision Policy

School Uniform

The uniform is a crested navy tracksuit with a red collared t-shirt. It is available for purchase from both Dermot Hall Menswear and Mary and Marie's Fashion on JKL Street in Edenderry.

All items of clothing (coats, jumpers and t-shirts) should be labelled with children's names. There is a lost and found area for clothing in the Secretary's Office.

Book Rental

We are very mindful of costs to parents and we try to keep the cost of sending your child to school to a minimum. For this purpose we operate a Book Rental Scheme that can be availed of throughout the whole school. Books available for rental will be detailed on your child's booklist.

Book Covering Service

Our Parents Association have recently purchased a book covering machine. They are offering a book covering service for parents. Books can be covered for as little as €0.50 per book. If you are interested in this service please call to the Secretary's Office.

School News

The best way to keep up to date on school news is through our school website, www.edenderrybns.ie and through our Twitter account, www.twitter.com/EdenderryBNS. We also publish a newsletter at the end of each school term.

