

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Cead failte go Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Fhlannain, Eidhneach. You and your child are most welcome to St. Flannan's N.S., Inagh. Our school staff commit to working with you to make your child's experience of primary school education as rewarding, happy and fulfilling as possible.

Our motto is "An Fhirinne" (The Truth). We are committed to providing a caring and supportive environment where everybody is valued in that spirit of truth. We want to develop each child's self esteem through opportunity, Christian respect, value, care and love so that the children will in turn pass these gifts on to those with whom they work and play as this is what they will have experienced themselves.

I, with the entire staff here, hope that you and your family will feel welcome and valued as members of our school community. As parents are the primary educators of children, we invite you to take a full and active role in our school. Many opportunities will present for parental involvement and we urge you to avail of the chance to engage with us. Your child will be truly delighted and proud of you!

We especially look forward to working with your child to provide a holistic education. We will, with your support, encourage him/her to reach their full potential so that he/she will eventually be able to take their place in society and lead a full, happy and fulfilled life.

St. Flannan's N.S. welcomes diversity and difference. We see each child as having a unique and equally valuable role in life with their varying strengths and weaknesses.

We look forward to working with you and assure you that we will do the very best we can.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline McGeary (Principal)

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for the pupils who attend our school is that by the time they leave our school

- **Academically:** They will be literate, numerate, have acquired the skills for life long learning and will be open to using new skills as they are being developed.
- **Physically:** They will have developed an appreciation of physical well-being, having due regard for a healthy lifestyle, both of body and mind.
- **Morally:** Be guided by Christian values and thus incorporating respect for themselves, for others and for their environment while having developed a social conscience.
- **Emotionally:** They will have developed a strong sense of self, being able to understand and express their feelings and be able to accept and listen to others.
- **Spiritually:** They will have developed a sense of ease and comfort within themselves.
- **Aesthetically:** Develop individuality, clarity, objectivity and openness in visual appreciation.
- **Culturally:** Develop national and international perspective.
- **Socially:** Have an awareness and respect for diversity and be conscientious towards their contemporaries and peers.
- **Personally:** Have an acceptance of their personal self worth and realise their potential value and contribution to society.

They will be ready to face the next stage of their lives, happy in the knowledge that their presence in the world matters and that it makes their community a better place for having them as part of it.

CATHOLIC SCHEDULE

St. Flannan's N.S., a Catholic School (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people.

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our school provides Religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name:	St. Flannan's National School
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E-mail:	office@inaghschool.ie
Website Address:	www.inaghschool.ie
Principal:	Caroline McGeary

OPENING HOURS

Assembly:	9.00a.m
Class begins:	9.10a.m.
School Closes:	Infants 1.50 p.m.
	Other Classes 2.50 p.m.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

A holiday schedule will be posted on our website at the beginning of each school year.

ABSENCES PROCEDURES:

- Before (if a planned absence) or on the first day of the absence parents must log onto the Aladdin App and enter the date and reason for absence.

FACILITIES

St. Flannan's National School is a modern well equipped and well maintained school. Built in 1985 with new extensions added in 2004 and 2009, the school boasts a host of facilities which contribute to the holistic development of all our pupils. These facilities include:-

- 6 Mainstream Classrooms
- 2 Learning Support/Resource Rooms
- 2 Autism Specific Class – “Suaimhneas” (S1 & S2)
- All Classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards
- Networked Computers in Classrooms with Internet Access
- Well stocked School Library
- Multi Sensory Room
- Occupational Therapy Room
- Large Hall with removable Stage
- Well stocked PE Equipment
- School Garden with Polytunnel
- Specialised Playground with swings, slides, climbing frames, seesaws
- 2 Basketball Courts
- Access to local GAA Pitch, Running/Walking Track/Astro Turf
- Bus service to local Inagh Ark Crèche for morning drop off and after school services at 1:50pm & 2:50pm.
- Bicycle Shelter
- Staff trained in First Aid on supervision at all times from 9am to 2.50pm.

CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Green Schools
 - Composting
 - Conservation
 - Gardening
 - Visitors Heritage in the Schools Scheme
 - Walk/Cycle to School

- Physical Education/Active School
 - Hurling/Camogie
 - Swimming / Swimming Gala
 - Athletics
 - Basketball / Marion Keane Basketball Tournament
 - Skipping
 - Dancing
 - Morning Walking Club
 - Kung Fu

- Music
 - Weekly traditional music lessons
 - School Band
 - Christmas Concert

- Literacy Promotion
 - Levelled Reading/ Guided Reading
 - Storytelling
 - Literacy Initiatives
 - Book Fair
 - World Book Day Events

- Participation in European Projects

- Creative School

- Students Council

Other Activities

- Traditional Celebrations
- Worldwide Awareness Events
- Disability Awareness Day
- Annual School Tour
- Graduation Day
- Weekly Assembly
- Student of the Month
- Newsletters for Parents
- Induction for New Parents
- Participation in Local Competitions e.g. Quizzes
- Annual Active School Week
- Computer Activities
- STEAM – Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- We want your child to be happy at school and, thankfully, most times they are! However, if you notice any upset or anxiety about going to school you need to talk to the child first. If there is any issue with friends or school work please come and talk to your teacher as soon as possible. Parents should always be aware of the possibility of bullying and when children are upset there IS a reason for it.
- Be aware of the dangers of over exposure to television/digital media/game consoles etc. A little is a good thing but a balance of activities is the best advice. Is it necessary or wise to have a television etc. in your child's bedroom? Food for thought! Encourage plenty of physical activity and free play!
- Encourage your child to talk about their lives, feelings etc. as it helps to develop their emotional intelligence, oral language and self esteem. To encourage talking you need to listen.... There is a reason why we all have two ears and one mouth!!
- Have a regular look at your child's schoolwork, books, projects etc. Talk to them about it, ask them to recite, sing and read for you. This is good for both parent and child.
- Encourage creativity through play, craft activities, drawing etc.
- Let your children see you reading books, papers, magazines etc. It encourages the child's interest in reading just watching you read. A reading Dad is a wonderful role model for boys especially. Would you consider joining the local library and making a family outing of this?
- Do get involved in school activities when given the opportunity i.e. Book Fairs, Fun Day, Fundraising Activities etc. We need you on our team and your child will love your involvement too.
- Get your child into a good homework habit from the start. Check and sign their diary each school day. Decide on a regular time and location for homework. Soon it just becomes another good habit.
- If you have any particular skills that you could share with any age group in our school do let us know i.e. Music, Art, Writing, Sport, Crafts etc.
- If there is any upset in your home life or extended family life that would impact on your child we would encourage you to have a discrete word with the class teacher about this. Children's upset can manifest itself in underachievement in class and/or disruptive behaviour. Every behaviour has a reason so forearmed is forewarned!
- A positive attitude by you as a parent towards school, teacher and school activities has a huge influence on your child's attitude. If you are unsure or unhappy about any practice in our school PLEASE come and talk to us

about it. Open and frank discussion could lead to better practice and will definitely improve the understanding of all.

- It is important that children wear their full uniform and have all their requirements for school. Please notify the teacher if there is any problem.
- As we have invested hugely in Information Technology for use throughout the school we would suggest that you encourage safe supervised usage of computers at home if they are available.
- We actively promote arts, culture, environmental awareness and heritage throughout our curriculum. We invite parents to avail of the many opportunities in Co. Clare to explore and enjoy such experiences as a family!
- Ensure that all your child's property is clearly labelled. Name tags can be ordered privately. Ask the school secretary for details of an Irish company who make such labels. It is essential that children are able to close their own coats, shoes and bags. So if using laced shoes can they tie their own laces?
- Teach your child good hygiene practices re toileting, coughing, sneezing etc.
- A good breakfast and healthy lunches help the child stay alert and have energy for their strenuous day. Are you aware of the "secret" sugars in cereal bars and some "fruit" drinks? All sugary treats are to be kept for home-time please.
- We operate a positive behaviour policy where good behaviour is recognised and encouraged. However all children have to learn the boundaries and occasionally will make mistakes. This is a very normal part of growth and development! If there are misbehaviour incidents at school that are confusing you in the re-telling keep in mind that you may only be hearing a "partial version" of events... and generally only the best bits!! Checking out the details with the teacher is advised!
- We hold an annual Parent-Teacher meeting to discuss academic and general progress and also issue an end of year written report. In recognition of the vital role parents play in their child's education we welcome and encourage you to discuss any issue relating to your son/daughter. If you wish to speak to your class teacher or Principal please ring in advance to make an appointment or request a call back.

SCHOOL RULES

In order to establish and maintain high standards of behaviour, discipline and safety pupils are expected to obey the following rules:

- Classes begin at 9.10am and end at 2.50pm (1.50 pm for Infant classes). All pupils are expected to be in their classrooms at 9.10 am.
- Pupils who travel to school by bus will be dropped and collected at the side of the school and then enter the school.
- Pupils who travel to school by car are to be dropped and collected according to traffic plan (see Traffic at Drop Off - Pick Up Times)
- Pupils who walk to school are to enter and exit the school via the back entrance.
- Between 9.00am and 9.10am pupils will be supervised in the school or in the school yard, weather permitting. Infant parents collect their child at the back gate at 1.5pm. 1st – 6th class will be supervised at collection times. No other supervision will be provided outside of school hours.
- Pupils must wear the full school uniform. Navy pants/skirt, grey crested polo shirt, navy crested jumper. Navy jogging bottoms are permitted on PE days only.
- Mobile phones are forbidden for all children.
- If a pupil is absent for any reason please log onto Aladdin App and enter the date and reason for your child's absence. (If a child is absent for 20 days or more the Principal is obliged by law to notify the National Education Welfare Board)
- Pupils are expected to bring a healthy lunch to school. Pupils are encouraged to eat a piece of fruit at the "Fruit Break". Pupils have ten minutes to eat their lunch at lunchtime in their classroom from 12.30 pm to 12.40 pm. Small break 11am-11.10am and 12.30pm-1.00pm.
- Pupils do not have permission to leave the school grounds.
- Pupils are expected to
 - Attend school regularly and punctually
 - Work quietly and safely when requested, and to the best of their ability.
 - Listen to their teachers and act on instruction/advice.
 - Listen to other pupils and await their turn to speak.
 - Show respect for all members of the school community.
 - Respect the rights of other pupils to learn.
 - Care for their property.
 - Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
 - Have a duty to avoid behaving in any way which would endanger themselves or others.
 - Remain seated while in their classroom.
 - Stay within designated areas during break times.

- Treat others with dignity and respect and, therefore, they must avoid nasty remarks, swearing or name-calling.
- Be inclusive of other pupils in games and activities.
- Contribute to good order around the school by moving quietly around the school.
- Keeping the school clean and tidy is essential.
- Have an age appropriate responsibility to bring the correct materials and books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.

HOMEWORK

- The following are the recommended times for children at each class level to spend on homework
 - Junior Infants 15 mins
 - Senior Infants 20 mins
 - 1st & 2nd Class 30-40 mins
 - 3rd & 4th Class 45 mins – 1 hour
 - 5th & 6th Class 1 hour – 1½ hours

- If pupils cannot for any reason complete their homework a note of explanation must be sent to the teacher.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Full policies on curricular and organisational areas are available on the school website – www.inaghschool.ie.

Pay particular attention to - Code of Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Enrolment, Healthy Lunches.

As policies are reviewed and/or completed we seek parental input. We welcome and value your views.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE SCHOOL

The ultimate goal of any infection control policy is to prevent needless infection. We at St. Flannan's National School would ask you the parents to help implement this policy by:

- Being vigilant about your child's health. If you notice a sore, rash or any unusual ailment please seek medical advice.
- After consultation with your GP if this condition is contagious/or a risk to other school children please notify the school as children or staff who are immune-suppressed need to be notified.
- It is the school policy to include all children who are fit for and able to participate in school activities.
- Be advised of the importance of having all your child's vaccinations up to date. Teaching your child how to wash their hands correctly also helps prevent and control infectious disease.
- Please advise us if you find headlice at any time or your child has any contagious disease.

Please feel free at any time to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

TRAFFIC AT DROP OFF – PICK-UP TIMES

Traffic arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety of all children and to alleviate the traffic problems at 9.10am, 1.50pm and 2.50pm. Please note the **GOLDEN RULE – Stay in the Queue and No Overtaking**. Please ensure your child has a coat on all school days.

1. Staff Parking
 - a. Staff parking is at the front of the school in the allocated parking areas. Reverse parking for safety.
2. Buses
 - a. The school bus drops off and collects at the back gate each morning in the designated priority bus space.
3. Taxis for Suaimhneas
 - a. Drop Off and Collection: The taxis are requested to drop off the children at 9.10am at the priority set-down area in front of the school. Collection each evening in the priority parking area.

4. Parents Cars (REAR of school)

- a. Collection at back gate at 1.50pm for all Infants. Please queue and move off when the car in front moves on.
- b. Collection 1st-6th class pupils at the back gate at 2.50pm.
- c. NO parents/drivers can drop off at front of school.
- d. All access is via the back gate please.

4. Visitors

- a. All Parents who need to visit the school at drop off or collection times must not park in the area of staff parking. Use the Church car-park or below the GAA dressing rooms.
- b. NO parking in the queuing area at the back of the school as this forces drivers to overtake.

NB: Please ensure whoever is collecting your child knows these traffic arrangements.

UNIFORM

Uniforms can be ordered by contacting Annette on 0863294982. She will organize an order/fitting evening before the end of the school year. Navy pants/skirt, grey crested polo shirt and navy crested jumper. Navy jogging pants can be worn on PE days only.

ESSENTIAL ENROLMENT RETURNS

- Enrolment Registration Form
- Birth/Adoption Certificate
- Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)
- Psychological Reports (if applicable)
- Details of any Medical Condition
- Code of Positive Behaviour Acceptance
- Anti-Bullying Policy – Parent Acceptance. Pupils Acceptance of Anti-Bullying Policy is dealt with from 3rd class onwards.
- Data Protection Policy
- Parental Consent for
 - Photographs/Video to be used for publicity reasons
 - Photos/Video or Work to be place on the Website
 - Relationship Sexuality Education Programme
 - Data Protection – Access to Records
 - Taking part in school activities
- Hospital Visit in Emergency
- POD Information

