ST. JOSEPH'S

BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

TERENURE

DUBLIN 6

Information for Parents

2026 - 2027

ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL TERENURE

School Principal:	**Ms. Anne McCabe**
Chairperson/ Board of Management	**Fr. Dave Brannigan, P.P.**
School Tel. No.	**01-4906905 / 089-2510954**
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Céad Míle Fáilte Roimh!

We are delighted to welcome your son to St. Joseph's Boys' School and we hope that his years with us will be enjoyable and rewarding. Starting school or entering a new school is an exciting experience for a child and yet, it can be a daunting one. The following guidelines have been prepared to help you and your son adapt to his school setting.

Characteristic Spirit and General Objectives

St. Joseph's BNS is a Catholic, all boys' primary school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin. "Catholic Ethos" in the context of a Catholic primary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims to promote:

a) The full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical cultural, moral and spiritual aspects.
b) A living relationship with God and with other people.
c) A philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and
d) The formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith.

St. Joseph's BNS provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

We are an inclusive school and have pupils from other faiths and religions attending the school. Our lessons are inclusive and considerate of this at all times.

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 *the Board of Management of St. Joseph's shall uphold, and be accountable to the Patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school.*

Our school subscribes to the general principles of the Primary School Curriculum which are:

(a) to enable the child to live a full life as a child and to realise his potential as a unique individual

(b) to enable the child to develop as a social being through living and cooperating with others and so contribute to the good of society

(c) to prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

To this end, we try:

(a) to promote the spiritual welfare of our children and to ensure a sound social, moral and religious education for them

(b) to encourage children to achieve high standards of work and behaviour and to develop self-responsibility

(c) to encourage them to be self-confident, tolerant co-operative and self-disciplined

(d) to help them learn the importance of punctuality, honesty, loyalty and consideration for others

(e) to value each as an individual and to develop their self-esteem and so prepare them to avail of further appropriate education.

We at St. Joseph's BNS believe that the children in our school are our highest priority. We promote a co-operative partnership among students, parents, staff and the community.

Our mission is to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing guiding and challenging all of our students to achieve their maximum potential.

We believe all children are entitled to develop to their fullest potential – academically, socially, emotionally, physically, morally, spiritually and aesthetically – enabling each child to grow in confidence to participate in the wider community.

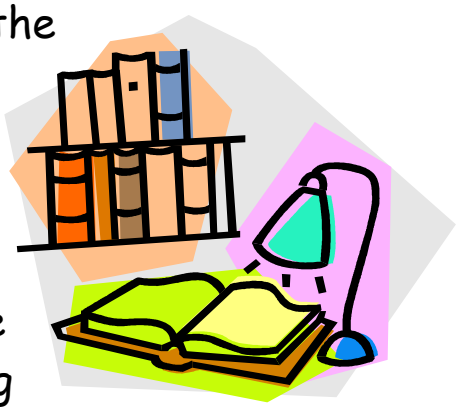
We provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment promoting self-esteem and confidence and growth in learning, knowledge and discipline.

We believe that our staff; teachers, special needs assistants, and ancillary staff, are the best resource we have in order to deliver the best possible education to our students and we encourage a caring and collegiate approach where every staff member is cared for and is treated as an equal.

We work in partnership with parents and the community in an atmosphere of mutual trust. We encourage parents to be partners with us in the life of the school.

We provide a welcoming atmosphere to parents and to the wider community.

School Organisation and Management



The school is managed in accordance with the "Rules for National Schools", the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
The Department of Education and Youth provides a percentage of funding for the running of the school whilst also determining the teaching staff allowed.
The Board of Management is obliged at all times to have regard to the resources and funding made available to it by the Department of Education and Youth (DEY).

The Board of Management is comprised of nominees of the Patron, parents, teachers and community and holds office for a period of four years. Elections to the Board of Management are organised in accordance with the "Constitution of Boards of Management and Rules of Procedure".

The School Board of Management is constituted as follows:

Patron Nominees

Two people directly nominated by the Patron.

Parents Nominees

Two parents – one father/one mother elected by the parent body.

Community Nominees:

Two members of the wider community are nominated for appointment by the Board of Management.

Teacher Nominee:

One elected member of the teaching staff.

The School Principal: Ms. Anne M^{c}Cabe

The Patron of the school is the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin.

Official School Time

The school will open to receive pupils at *8.50 a.m. for all pupils.*
No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

Classes will end each day at 1.30 p.m. for the boys in Junior and Senior Infants and at 2.30 pm for all other boys. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school and the person to escort them should be at the school not later than 1.30 p.m. for infants or 2.30 p.m. for all other boys, as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

Parents should note that children are not insured outside these official opening hours unless they are participating in school activities under the supervision of school teachers.

A personal accident 24 hour insurance scheme is organised with Allianz Insurance. **The cost of this cover is included in the €75 class requisites and expenses.**

School Registration for Junior Infants

The school will open on **Monday 31st August 2026.**

The standard school day starts for infants

at **8.50am** and ends at **1.30pm.**

For their first day, the infants should arrive from 9.30 a.m. to allow the other pupils time to get into class and to ensure that staff are there to meet and greet your son and to help him settle in.

Boys in Junior Infant classes will go **home** at **12.00** mid-day up to and including **11th September, 2026**

and at **1.30p.m.** thereafter.

Appearance and Dress:

The school uniform is an essential part of the school Code of Behaviour. In the interest of the overall appearance of the boys, individually and collectively, we request your co-operation.

The school uniform is provided by:

The Schoolwear House (phone 01 460 4371)
Unit D7 Ballymount Cross Ind. Estate, Ballymount, D24

On-line ordering is available at www.schoolwearhouse.ie. You may also click and collect or visit the premises with an appointment.

The uniform consists of:

(a) **Grey Trousers (plain grey or black shorts when it is warm)**
(b) Grey Shirt
(c) School Tie (green and black)
(d) Grey v-neck jumper with green and black trim.
(e) The school tracksuit and white t-shirt.

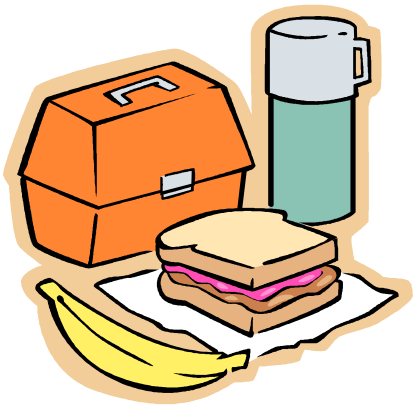
The school uniform should be worn at all school functions.
Boys are allowed to wear school tracksuits to school on PE days and when they have games.

We recommend that NAME LABELS be put on all coats, jumpers, ties, tracksuit tops in particular and sports gear.

A school blazer is worn for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Parent Association organise a blazer rental scheme for both occasions.

During the Summer/warm months, it is acceptable for the boys to wear black generic shorts as a part of their tracksuit uniform and grey shorts as a part of their uniform.

Lunch Breaks:



The children have two breaks during the course of the day.
11.00 a.m. to 11.10 a.m. &
12.20 p.m. – 12.50 p.m.

Dublin City Council supplies milk free of charge. The Department provides hot meals for the big lunch break.

As part of our healthy eating policy, it is requested that you do not include sweets, biscuits, chocolate, crisps or fizzy drinks in the children's small lunch break packs.

We are a NUT-FREE SCHOOL

CHEWING GUM is prohibited in the school.

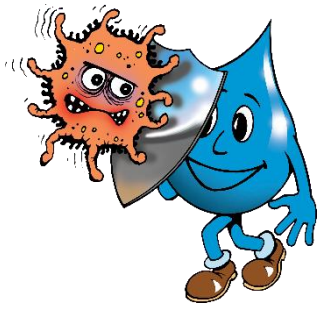
Absences from School

Should your son be absent from school, you are required to provide a written note on his return to school. If it is a long-term absence a note should be sent to the school pending his return. These arrangements are in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000. The School Principal is obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer in TUSLA when a child's absence reaches 20 school days.

It is a requirement that we receive a note from parents if their child has to leave school before normal closing time, this can either be written or sent in via Aladdin. The parent/guardian must also sign their children out at the Office. Where possible please do not sign your child out during break times.

Health/Hygiene

St. Joseph's is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our pupils and staff. Your child will be sharing a room daily with 22+ children. Close contact will be unavoidable at times, so particular attention should be paid to health and hygiene.



General advice to prevent the spread of bugs and viruses:
Staff, pupils and visitors should at all times adhere to current advice and instructions of the public health authorities in relation to protecting oneself against any risks posed by a virus.

Children who are sick should not be sent to school.
It is important to consider the other children in the class.

If your son has a particular health problem you should advise the school and you should consult current public health guidelines where high risk groups have been identified.

If your son needs medication on a regular basis you must make special arrangements for this with the school. **It is most important to provide the school with a telephone number where you can be contacted in an emergency.**

General advice to prevent the spread of head lice.
You should check your son's hair regularly for head lice. If your son has contracted lice you should inform the school and treat his hair immediately. The school will issue a message to all parents of the class requesting them to check their children.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) gives booster immunisation against childhood illnesses i.e. 4 in 1 to children in infant classes. They also recommend that children have all their primary immunisation prior to school entry, to protect against highly infectious diseases. The public health nurse at your local clinic will advise you on this matter. Parents are contacted by the HSE prior to visits and children will not be immunised without parental consent.

Flu Vaccine
Our pupils avail of the Flu Vaccine each year. You will have an opportunity to sign up for this later on in the year.

School Bags:

The school is aware of concern among parents in relation to the weight of their children's school bags. In an effort to alleviate this problem:

(a) Infants' textbooks which will not be needed until later in the school year are stored in school.
(b) Timetables are issued to the senior pupils to obviate the necessity of bringing all books every day.

School bags with zips are easier to open for the younger child. A child's bag should be able to hold an A4+ book, *which is the size of most of their workbooks and their Bookworm folders.*

Homework

Parents are requested to ensure that homework is completed each night and to sign the homework diary which is provided from 1st class upwards. If a child has not completed his homework, a written explanation should be provided to his class teacher.

If homework is proving to be an issue, please inform the class teacher and we will work with you to make it manageable for all involved.

General School Rules and Regulations

The school depends on you to help and encourage your child to be friendly, co-operative, to show good manners and behaviour, to be aware of the importance of personal hygiene and to behave well going to and from school. We would welcome your support in implementing the following rules:

(i) Children are expected to be on time for school.

(ii) Children are expected to be courteous, well behaved at school and on their way to and from school.

(iii) The boys are taught that kindness and consideration for the health and safety of others is the basis for all our school rules regarding play and social/emotional interactions.

(iv) Pupils are **NOT PERMITTED** to visit classrooms before official opening time.

(v) During break times, children will play outside unless the weather is very wet. Upon written request from a parent regarding an illness/injury, arrangements can be made for the child to stay indoors. Such permission is granted when there is due reason.

(vi) Children are not permitted to leave the school premises during school time without written permission from their parent and the permission of the Principal/Class Teacher.

Confidential Information

In addition to its legal obligations under the broad remit of education legislation, the school has a legal responsibility to comply with the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and to the GDPR. For further information please see our Data protection Policy on our website.

Upon admission the school gathers and processes your child's personal data for the purposes of administering the education of your child. To facilitate this, we will input your child's data into the school's Management Information System, called Aladdin. This is a secure software service application which is owned and run by Cloudware Ltd. (T/A Aladdin Schools), from where the data is only processed for the above purpose.

The school is also required to forward information to the Department of Education and Youth (DEY) who operate a Primary Online Database (POD) which involves schools maintaining and returning data on pupils to the DEY at individual pupil level. This information is used to evaluate progress and outcomes of pupils at primary level, to validate school enrolment returns for grant payment and teacher allocation purposes, to follow up on pupils who do not make the transfer from primary to post primary level and for statistical reporting. The database will hold data on all primary school pupils.

Information regarding your child's name, date of birth, address and phone contact number is also forwarded to the HSE on request, for the school medical and dental schemes.

It is the policy of the school not to release telephone numbers to other people unless prior consent is given.

Home/School Liaison

For general information the school usually issues emails to both parents. Newsletters and information are also provided through our website www.stjosephsterenure.ie . Text messages are sometimes used when necessary. Notices may be posted at the entrances to the school building.
It is important to provide the school with an up-to-date phone number and email address at all times.

Specific information from class teachers may be sent by email. We encourage you to keep in contact with your son's class teacher through their email address:
(mr….. or ms…… @stjosephsterenure.ie)
Should you have a query or if a problem arises, we encourage you to contact the class teacher via their email address. If a consultation is required, it is important to make an appointment. You

School reports are issued once a year at the end of June. Parent/teacher meetings are organised in November of the school year.

Making Life Manageable for Infants:

Children should be able to put on and take off coats and hang them up, to use the toilet and flush it properly, to tidy up their crayons and colouring books. Help them to practice putting things in and out of their school bags and closing it and opening and closing their new lunchboxes.

Teach them to use a tissue, to share toys, to take turns in the playground. Encourage confidence by having them dress themselves. Allow time for this in the morning. Don't criticise if things are not exactly to your liking i.e. buttons not perfect or tie slightly crooked. Back-to-front jumpers still keep you warm. Praise their efforts at every opportunity. Velcro fasteners and zips may be easier than buttons.

All of the above can help your child feel capable of dealing with classroom routine. It also helps the teacher enormously.
More information on getting your child ready for Primary school can be found on
https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8d8f-ready-for-school/

Social, Personal and Health Education

The SPHE programme is a social, personal, and health education section of the Primary School curriculum. As a school we use the Stay Safe Programme, the Walk Tall Programme and the SPHE guidance from the DEY. Part of the SPHE programme is the Growing and Changing Strand and Taking Care of my Body strand. Both strands are taught to all classes at an appropriate level.

The school has a Relationship and Sexuality Education Policy (RSE) as part of SPHE. Parents have enthusiastically endorsed this programme. The policy allows parents the right to exclude their child/children from parts of RSE programme. However, recent child protection procedures require all schools to teach the Stay Safe Programme.

The school has in place robust Child Protection Procedures and Bí Cineálta:Anti-Bullying Procedures. Through our SPHE programme every effort is made to prevent bullying in our school community. If bullying behaviours present at any stage, our Bí Cineálta:Anti-Bullying Policy outlines how this is dealt with effectively. These policies and procedures can be found on our school website.

Children Requiring Special Educational Provision

The Department of Education
makes special provision for pupils who have been identified as requiring special educational support. This provision may be by way of equipment, extra support teaching hours, transport or access to a Special Needs Assistant. It is imperative that you contact the school office immediately if you are aware of your child needing such support.

Learning Support

Our school currently has the services of six Learning Support/SEN Teachers. In order to identify children with specific needs, all pupils are tested in senior infants.

Pupils who require learning support are tutored through team teaching in class, in small groups, or on a one-to-one basis, during school hours. For this purpose, Learning Support teachers/SEN teachers are employed in accordance with regulations of the Department of Education and Youth (DEY).

The class teacher will contact parents when extra help is recommended. We strongly advise that pupils who require this support avail of it until they attain reading, writing and numerical abilities to keep up with daily classroom activities.

After-School Activities

In addition to the formal school curriculum the school provides extra activities outside of regular school hours. The running of these activities may vary as they are dependent on the availability of teachers. The participation of children in these events is voluntary.

Table Tennis:
Chess:
Junior and Senior Art:
Yoga for Wellbeing:
Drama:
Bookworm Club:
Lego:
Homework Club:
Science:

Football/Hurling:
Coaching in Gaelic football and hurling is organised at particular times throughout the year. The school enters junior and senior teams in inter-school competitions. The inter-school competitions apply to boys from 4th to 6th Class.
The school has a long established relationship with the following clubs: **Templeogue/Synge Street**
Faughs Hurling Club.

Boys as young as six years are invited to participate in activities organised by the clubs. Parents are informed of these activities via Aladdin Connect or email.

St. Joseph's B.N.S.
Calendar 2026-2027

School Opens - Monday August 31st 2026
September 23rd **School closed for Curriculum in-service**

October 2026
Halloween Mid-Term
October 26th- 30th inclusive **School Closed**

December 2026
Christmas Holidays
Tues. 22nd December Closing at 12.00 for all
Dec 23rd – Jan 5th inclusive **School Closed**
Re-opens Wednesday 6th January

January 2027
January 29th Friday **School Closed for Teacher in-service.**

February 2027
February 1st Monday **School Closed**

February (Thurs/Fri) 18th and 19th Mid-Term Break **School Closed**

March 2027
March 17th Wednesday St Patrick's Day

School Closed

March/April 2027
Easter Holidays
Friday 19th March Closing at 12.00 noon for all
March 22nd - April 2nd inclusive **School Closed**
Re-opens Monday April 5th

May 2027
May 3rd - 7th inclusive **School Closed**

June 2027
June 4th and June 7th inclusive **School Closed**

Summer Holidays 2027 **Wednesday 30th June, school closing at noon for all**