



St. Brigid's National School

Beechpark Lawn, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
Tel: 01- 8214040 Roll No: 00697S

Chairperson:
Mrs. Helen Spillane

Principal:
Mr. Denis Courtney M.Ed

Deputy Principal:
Mrs. Noelle MacDonagh B.Ed

17th September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are now settling into school routines. At St. Brigid's, we are driven every day by an unwavering commitment to creating a safe, positive and stimulating learning environment in which pupils discover their talents, broaden their interests, build on their abilities and grow in self-esteem. We are grateful to each of you for entrusting us with your children and we want to assure you that we will do our best to help them reach their potential. In this letter, I wish to address two important concerns - pupil safety and the increasing difficulties regarding access to secondary schools.

Recently, our school reviewed our Child Protection Policy and our Safety Statement. Arising from these reviews, we wish to share with you some of our concerns and seek your cooperation in our attempts to ensure pupil safety and minimise risks of injury and disruption.

Contact Numbers:

Please notify the office (info@saintbrigids.ie / 01 8214040) or your child's teacher if there are any changes in contact details; phone numbers, addresses etc. or relevant changing family arrangements.

Collection of Infant pupils:

We ask parents and guardians of infant pupils to collect pupils from the classroom door and to nominate three people who may collect children. Children will only be released to the named people and cannot be released to minders, neighbours, other parents etc. without the prior written permission of a parent/guardian.

Traffic through the Junior School:

The junior school (First and Second class) building tends to be very busy at opening and dismissal times, resulting in congestion and heightened accident risks. To help alleviate this, we ask all parents (and especially those of Junior and Senior Infant classes) not to enter this building at these times but rather to enter and exit the school through the teachers' car park.

Visits during school hours:

All parents or visitors to the school, during school hours, **must** come through the reception area and sign in at the school office. If you wish to meet your child's teacher, we ask you to make an appointment by contacting the school secretary. An appointment system ensures that classes are not left unsupervised and the teacher can meet without interruption. Pupils leaving school early must furnish a note, be collected and sign out at reception.

Road Safety:

The Board of Management and school staff are particularly concerned about pupil safety on the way to and from school. We ask that children cross Auburn Avenue and Castleknock Road only where the lollipop lady operates. Drivers are asked to drive with care at all times in the school vicinity and to observe the yellow lines, the arrows and yellow boxes at both the school entrance and church carpark. Please do not stop at or block the school gates (both large and pedestrian) at any time.

Administration of Medicines:

If a child has any special medical needs or health problems, it is vital that the class teacher and the school authorities are notified early in the school year. We believe that medicines should only be administered in school when essential and cannot be given at alternative times. Medicines will not be stored or administered in school, without the prior written permission of the child's parents or without the authorisation of the B.O.M. Parents should keep pupils at home when they are unwell and children, who have been sick, should return to school only when they have fully recovered. If your child has long term medical needs, it is essential that you read the policy on our website and comply with its requirements.

Secondary school:

In recent years, more and more of our senior pupils are encountering difficulty with enrolment to secondary schools. Our local schools cannot accommodate the huge numbers that apply to them each year. As a result, many parents are being forced to apply to private schools (which in many cases are also heavily oversubscribed) or to accept places in schools that involves long distant travel from their homes. To address this problem, we believe that the new Edmund Rice College should be located in Castleknock. A possible site had been identified in the Phoenix Park racecourse but we understand that the Department of Education are still looking at other options. We see no real solution to this problem in the short-term without the building of a school in the immediate vicinity of Castleknock village. I ask parents to actively pursue this issue with all our public representatives.

Tús maith leath na hoibre! A good start is crucial in ensuring that your child has a happy, purposeful and fulfilling year in school. We look forward to working with you - your support, cooperation and commitment are key to achieving our shared goal that every single child experiences happiness and achievement in school this year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Denis Courtney.
Saint Brigids's National School,