

**SLIEVEARDAGH  
NATIONAL SCHOOL**

**Tele: 052- 9154422**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR PARENTS**



# Dear Parents

## Slieveardagh National School

The Commons, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Tele: 052 9154422

Email: [slieveardaghns@hotmail.com](mailto:slieveardaghns@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.slieveardaghns.com](http://www.slieveardaghns.com)

Twitter: [@slieveardaghns](https://twitter.com/slieveardaghns)

On behalf of all the children and staff, I would like to warmly welcome you to Slieveardagh National School and to extend you a Céad Míle Fáilte.

Slieveardagh National School aims to create a happy and friendly school where the focus is on children and their learning.

The heartbeat of our school is driven by the enthusiasm of our staff and a desire for every pupil to achieve. In Slieveardagh National School, our Catholic ethos is characterised by our caring spirit, our commitment to pupil and teacher learning, and the provision of a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Your child will be joining a school rich in tradition, where the qualities of commitment, dedication, professionalism and volunteerism are alive and well.

In Slieveardagh National School, we hope that your child will be excited and stimulated by learning, will celebrate success, and will participate in many or all of the following: school performances, school teams, school quizzes, games, art and more.

Please visit our Website: [www.slieveardaghns.com](http://www.slieveardaghns.com) to see up to-date activities, news, etc.,

An essential ingredient for this to happen is teamwork. We view education as a joint venture, involving everyone – children, parents, staff and the wider community. We work closely with parents keeping you involved and informed about our school. We hope that we will be able to depend on your co-operation and support in this partnership, hoping that together we can provide the best for every child.

We hope and expect that your child's experience of our school will be an enriching and rewarding one. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Looby  
Principal

# School Ethos

Slieveardagh National School is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Cashel & Emily. While Slieveardagh National School is a school with a Catholic ethos, it has due recognition for pupils of other faiths or no faith.

Our Catholic ethos finds expression through the care values of our school and through our actions, attitudes and practices:

- The staff of this school want to create a climate of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual safety for students, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect.
- With this in mind, the teachers of the school see education not just as providing students with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the emotional, social, physical and spiritual development of students.
- In this school, we want students to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. Achievement of these aspirations by the school requires the help and co-operation of students, teachers and parents.

## Religious Education

Slieveardagh National School promotes Religious Education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith. Sensitivity is always shown to pupils of all faiths.

Slieveardagh National School has adopted the Alive – O Catechetical Programme approved and recommended by the Irish Hierarchy for use in Catholic Schools. A Christian ethos however permeates the school day and the life of the school. The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated. Liturgical celebrations are held on occasions and the whole school celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation annually.

# School Organisation

Our school has two class teachers, Mrs. Fiona Looby & Mr. Orry Ryan. The Junior Room has Junior Infants to Second Class and the Senior Room has Third Class to Sixth Class. We feel the children learn really well from each other and benefit greatly from being in a multigrade class.

Ms. Anna Scott is our Special Education Teacher in Slieveardagh National School. The Special Education Needs Teachers, support, individualise and supplement the learning that takes place in classrooms. Pupils who have special educational needs are identified by class teachers and additional support may be provided following consultation parents.

There is ongoing liaison and communication between staff throughout the school. In this way, we are able to utilise the strengths of a large staff team to enhance the quality of learning and teaching here at Slieveardagh National School.

## **Board of Management**

The Board of Management manages the school on behalf of the patron and is accountable to the patron (Bishop of Cashel & Emily) and the Minister for Education and Skills. The Board must uphold the ethos of the school. The principal is responsible for the day to-day management of the school, including providing guidance and direction to the teachers and other staff of the school and is accountable to the Board for that management.

The Board of Management is appointed for a four-year term. Our Board of Management meets at least twice a term. The current Parent Nominees John Breen & Ann Marie Scott.

## **Parents' Association**

The Parents Association of Slieveardagh National School endeavours to work in close collaboration with the Principal, Staff and Board of Management, to create a strong partnership between home and school. Activities encourage active parental/guardian involvement and positive experiences for pupils and their families as they strive to be the best they can, within the school and local community.

# Our Team

**Principal**

Fiona Looby

**Deputy Principal**

Donnacha Brennan

**Special Education Teacher**

Anna Scott

**SNA**

Mary McCluskey

**Secretary**

Margaret Mullally

**Cleaner**

Margaret Butler

**Maintenance**

John O'Meara

**Board of Management**

Mary Purcell (Chairperson)

Fiona Looby (Secretary)

Hazel Butler (Community Nominee)

Conor Cleere (Parents Nominee & Treasurer)

Martina Cleere (Parents Nominee)

Fr. Derry Quirke (Patron Nominee)

John Norton (Community Nominee)

- The Board of Management are responsible for managing the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and to provide an appropriate education for each student at the school

**Parents' Association**

Lorraine Fitzgerald (Chairperson)

Davina Keating (Secretary)

Fiona Maher (Treasurer)

# Curriculum

The Primary School Curriculum outlines what children learn in each subject, the approaches and methodologies used and how children's learning progresses through the primary school. The curriculum is learner-centred. It emphasises the importance of literacy, numeracy, and language, while at the same time responding to changing needs in science and technology, social personal and health education, and citizenship. The Primary School Curriculum aims to:

- develop each child's potential to the full
- encourage in children a love of learning
- help them develop skills they will use all their lives

The curriculum is learner-centred. It emphasises the importance of literacy, numeracy, and language, while at the same time responding to changing needs in science and technology, social personal and health education, and citizenship. The curriculum is presented in 7 subject areas comprising 11 subjects:

Languages	→ Gaelge → English
Mathematics	
Social, environmental and scientific education	→ History → Geography → Science
Arts education	→ Visual Arts → Music → Drama
Physical education	
Social, personal and health education	
Religious education	

As well as learning, new ideas and finding out new information in the different subjects of the curriculum, children develop important skills such as communicating, estimating, problem solving, working scientifically, designing and making.

The curriculum specifies the amount of time to be allocated to each curriculum area. Each teacher devises an individual timetable to ensure that each subject gets its allocated time and also to ensure access to school resources such as the Library, Computer study and school field.

## **Literacy Lift Off**

We started our Literacy Lift Off Programme in September 2017. This programme operates in the Junior Room from Junior Infants to Second Class. This is an intervention which gives the children lots of opportunity to read high quality and varied books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing. It involves dividing the children into groups and teaching reading, phonics and fine motor skills. The school invested over €3000 in books for this programme and even though we are only at the beginning the improvements can be seen already in terms of children's reading ability and comprehension.

## **Additional Education Needs**

All children are valued, respected and welcomed to the school whatever their additional educational need. We will support their learning and ensure they are fully included in all school activities, making full use of externally provided facilities where appropriate.

## **Special Education Needs**

Our Special Education Teacher is Ms. Anna Scott. Prevention and early intervention is the cornerstone of special education provision at Slieveardagh National School. Close collaboration and consultation between class teachers and the special education team, together with ongoing assessment will identify pupils in infant classes who may be in need of additional support. Children are assessed annually from first class to establish their educational needs. Standardised assessments are carried out in Maths, spelling, English and Irish by class teachers. Support will be provided for children who need it by our support teachers. Should your child require any special assistance, be it short term or long, a member of staff will be in contact with you and invite you to the school to discuss your child's needs.

# School Activities

Slieveardagh National School has a tradition and policy of encouraging participation by all its pupils, both boys and girls in a wide and varied range of sporting and cultural activities. We promote enjoyable participation by providing coaching and competition in that order and have achieved no little success in both individual and team events.

An outside trainer comes to the school on a Friday from 1-30-2.30pm and provides both football & hurling training. After school training for GAA takes place on a Wednesday from 2.30-3.30pm. Football training in Term 1 and Hurling training in Term 3. This training helps to develop the children skills and promote team work.

Listed below are some of the activities that the pupils in our school delight in furthering their skills and talents:

<b>School Performance</b>	<b>Irish Dancing</b>	<b>Quiz time</b>
<b>Christmas Carol Service / performance</b>	<b>Art &amp; Crafts</b>	<b>Drama</b>
<b>Tin Whistle</b>	<b>Zumba</b>	<b>Knitting</b>

<b>Hurling</b>	<b>Camogie</b>	<b>Football</b>
<b>Ladies Football</b>	<b>Athletics Cross Country</b>	<b>Soccer</b>
<b>Spike Ball</b>	<b>Tag Rugby</b>	<b>Basketball</b>

## Community Involvement

Slieveardagh National School has a strong connection with our local area. Our staff co-operate and work exceptionally well with each other and the wider school community in providing opportunities for participation and involvement in rewarding and worthwhile activities. We have a very strong relationship with the history of our local area. We are adjacent to the Old School, where many events are held in capturing the local history and traditions of the area. The Old School Committee ensures that our students have access during school time to such exhibitions and events. Each year the Transition Year Students from Presentation Secondary Ballingarry train our students in Spike Ball and they go onto play in competition with schools in the area.

## Green Schools

Green Schools is an international environmental education programme, designed to promote and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. It helps pupils to recognise the importance of environmental issues. Slieveardagh National School actively participates in the Green Schools programme. Joining up for the Green Schools Programme gives us the opportunity to put measures in place to help fine tune our waste management and to reduce our use of water and electricity. We have successfully reduced the amount of waste that we send to the landfill and we are carefully monitoring our use of water and electricity. We have cut down significantly on our use of energy. We are currently working to attain our third Green Flag.

## Active School Flag

Slieveardagh National School were awarded our Active School Flag. We have an annual active school week. We have many activities during the week. We have to maintain the work of the flag and it will be renewed every 3 years. We also have many activities during the year to promote physical activity. We have an Active Notice Board to display pictures and news of the activities we undertake.

## School Garden

We have developed a school garden in Slieveardagh National School. We grow fruit and vegetables in the garden. It is a great active learning experience, enjoyed by all the children. We added a Polytunnel to our school garden this school year. The school garden promotes sustainable living and healthy eating.



## Timetable

**Infant Classes: 8.50am - 1.30pm**

**First to Sixth Classes: 8.50am - 2.30pm**

Children are requested to arrive at school by 8.50am. School doors are open from 8.35am. The Board of Management accept no responsibility for pupils arriving before that time. Pupils should go to their designated classroom. On wet mornings, all pupils should go directly to their classrooms.

Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school during the school day. If a child has to be collected early, the parent should go to the classroom and sign out their child.

There is a ten-minute break at 11.00am and a thirty-minute break at 12.30pm. Pupils are given time to eat their lunches at their desks before being allowed out to play. In general pupils are not allowed to remain indoors during playtime.

Infant classes finish school at 1.30pm. Parents/guardians are invited to collect their children from the school gate at this time.

## Uniform

- Grey trousers /grey skirt /Pinafore
- Blue shirt / blouse + Navy tie
- V-neck Navy Jumper {not crested}
- Red polo shirt
- Crested Tracksuit Top
- Plain Navy tracksuit bottoms.
- Plain navy shorts.

*On days when pupils have PE, they wear tracksuits and polo shirts. Pupils can wear plain navy shorts for matches / training.*

School Tracksuit & uniform is available to purchase from Paul Meehan only, Mullinahone 052-9153146

School Uniform can also be purchased from Department Stores, Paul Meehan and other uniform stores.

Footwear: Black shoes. Please do not send your child to school in high heeled or slippery-soled shoes.

Jewellery: Children should not wear jewellery to school. In the interest of personal safety, pupils with pierced ears should wear only studs or sleepers.

Make Up: Children should not wear makeup to school.

All items of clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be returned to their owners.

## School Book Scheme

We are delighted to inform parents that the school can offer this scheme to all students. This fee includes the following:

- Text books related to all subjects {rental}
- Workbooks
- English / Irish Reading books {rental}
- Copies
- Notebooks
- Arts & Crafts fee
- Student Insurance – 24 hours

The fee must be before the school year commences. All students will be given their books for the following school year at the end of June when fee has been paid in full. Please note that this fee amount may vary from year to year, this will depend on costs associated with same.

## School Lunches

The school provides “**Free School Lunches**” to all students each day. Parents will be given a ‘username’ & ‘password’ for their child/children. Parents can then log onto our school lunches provider “Carambola” website to place your order for each day at the end of each week. All dietary requirements are catered for. Our students are delighted with the menu choice which we can offer. All pupils get a drink and 4 lunch items each day.

## Behaviour & Discipline

The staff of Slieveardagh National School want to create a climate of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual safety for students, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect. We want pupils to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. This requires the help and co-operation of pupils, teachers and parents. Parents/guardians can assist the school by encouraging their children to abide by the school rules, encouraging punctuality and regular attendance and by ensuring that homework is given due time and effort.

Our school Code of Behaviour details:

- The standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each pupil attending the school;
- The whole school approach in promoting positive behaviour;
- The measures that shall be taken when a pupil fails or refuses to observe those standards;
- The procedures to be followed before a pupil may be suspended or expelled from the school concerned;
- The grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a pupil
- The school’s Anti-Bullying Policy
- The procedures to be followed in relation to a child’s absence from school.

Should a parent/guardian be concerned about any aspect of their child’s behaviour they are welcome to make an appointment to discuss their concerns.

Complete Code of Behaviour is available in the school.

## **Positive Behaviour**

As a general rule, the school will endeavour to create an environment where positive behaviour is reinforced through praise and reward. School staff will use encouraging language and gestures, both in class and around the school, so that positive behaviour is instantly recognised and positively rewarded. Special attention will be paid to pupils who have previously been associated with poor behaviour so that not only good behaviour but also improvement in behaviour is acknowledged.

A reward scheme for promoting positive behaviour is used. Such rewards include;

- Whole Class rewards
- Pupils of the week.
- Individual awards at assembly.

## **Child Protection**

Slieveardagh National School has adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement Policy which is reviewed annually. Child Protection concerns should be reported to the Principle. Parents are advised to read the full Child Safeguarding Policy which is available from the school. All allegations and suspicions of child abuse have to be reported to the HSE.

## **Custody of Children**

The school must be made aware of any court orders that relate to the care of children. This is necessary to ensure that the child is always in the care of the parent given the authority. The school treats all such cases confidentially.

# General Information

## Accident / Illness at School

Children with bad colds, sore throats, diarrhoea or stomach upsets are best kept at home. They become tired quickly and may pass on infections.

Parents will be notified immediately if their child becomes ill or is seriously injured at school. Once contact has been made by the school the child should be picked up as soon as possible.

If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox please keep him/ her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform the teacher immediately.

If your child is not well, please do not send him or her to school. Sick children are much better off at home. Generally, if your child is too sick to go on yard he/she is too sick to come to school.

## Medication Policy

In general, school staff will not give tablets or medication to pupils without full written instructions from parents. Forms are available from the office. This is in line with school and Department of Education and Skills policy. Teachers do not enter lightly into an agreement to administer medication, and wherever possible, parents should come to the school to administer medication.

Parents should also request from their doctor medication that does not need to be taken during the school day.

Under no circumstances is medication to be kept in the child's school bag.

If a child has a serious medical condition or allergy which may require emergency treatment, please contact the school office so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

## Contact with the School

Positive home / school relationships are encouraged in order that we can work together for your child to fully benefit from all our school has to offer.

Our 'open door' policy means that parents may see the Principal at any time but, for your convenience, it is helpful if you phone in advance to check availability. Parents may also see teachers before or after school with prior arrangement. Please check your child's homework journal often and use the journal to send messages to the teacher.

Parent-Teacher meetings will be organised in the second term.

A monthly newsletter is issued to parents/guardians to update them on school events etc., Please keep an eye on your child's school-bag for notes for parents.

The Text-a-Parent service is used to notify parents by mobile phone of forthcoming school events and of school closings.

You can also keep up to date on all events, etc., in the school on our website [www.slieveardaghns.com](http://www.slieveardaghns.com) or on **Twitter: "@Slieveardagh NS"**.

## **Absence**

If your child is absent from school, on his/her return please write a note, or use notes in school diary, and record (1) the dates of absence, (2) reasons for absence and (3) parent's/guardian's signature. Should the absence exceed 3 days, parents/guardians are required to contact the school with an explanation.

The Education Welfare Act states that it is the duty of parents to ensure that children attend school every day. It also requires schools to monitor pupil's attendance and to notify the Education Welfare Board of pupils who are absent for 20 days in total. Our school policy is as follows:

## **Punctuality**

1. Teachers will keep records of pupils who are regularly late and inform the Principal.
2. The Principal will speak to parents.
3. If the pupil continues to be late, the Principal will write to parents outlining details of time missed.

## **Attendance**

1. The class teacher will inform the Principal of pupils who have been absent for 20 days.
2. When a child has been absent for 20 days, for whatever reason, the Principal is obliged to forward details to the Education Welfare Officer. Details to be forwarded include: pupils name and address, parent's names, date of birth, number of days absent.
3. The Principal will inform parents when he has forwarded details of absences to the Education Welfare Board.

## Two Sculptors

I dreamt I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher – the tools he used  
Were books, music, and art.  
The other; a parent, worked with a guiding hand,  
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled with a touch  
That was careful, deft, and sure,  
While the parent laboured by his side  
And polished and soothed it o'er.

And when at last, their task was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had moulded into the child  
Could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed they would have failed  
If either had worked alone.  
For behind the teacher stood the school  
And behind the parent, the home.