



Welcome Booklet

Welcome to Naas Community National School.

At Naas Community National School, we strive to provide an environment that is happy, caring and welcoming. A safe place where students are given the opportunity to become the best they can be. Where they can learn and adopt the values of respect and individuality. A school where academic, social, artistic and sporting achievement is celebrated and equips the children with the skills necessary to take their place in society.

My vision for Naas Community National School is a place where the children look forward to coming to school each day. A school where they feel welcomed and part of the school community. A school where every learner and learning style is catered for and students enjoy the challenges and experiences they receive daily. Each student gets a chance to develop and celebrate their individuality and talents.

*Paul Ennis
Principal*

Background

Naas Community National School was established in September 2010 as part of a new model of National School

under the patronage of the Education and Training Boards of Ireland. It operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education and Skills and follows the Primary School Curriculum.









Core Values of CNS

Community National Schools seek to provide a high standard of education where each child is encouraged to reach his/her own potential. Our schools are committed to a spirit of inclusion, equality and harmony where each child and member of the school community is valued and treated equally, and with respect and dignity.

Ethos Statement

A Community National School is one where:

-  The school becomes the centre of the local community
-  Children are encouraged and supported in living their lives to the full
-  High standards are the goal in teaching and learning
-  Everybody is valued and treated with respect
-  Diversity is recognised and celebrated
-  Respect for plurality of faiths/beliefs is seen as integral to the daily routine of the school

Our school philosophy

Our vision is that of a caring, loving multi-belief school where all children whatever their ability, race or creed are cherished for their uniqueness.

Our school seeks to give equal opportunities to all children to reach their full potential academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally. We endeavour to achieve this goal in a climate of positive partnership, supported by the entire school community of staff, parents/guardians, Board of Management and the local community.

Our mission is to seek, through work and action, a happy climate of physical, emotional, social and intellectual security for students, staff and parents/guardians. Teaching and learning can the only take place

within the context of mutual valuing and respect. Education not only provides students with knowledge and skills but also contributes to developing the individual.

We believe that every child matters and that each child has a unique and special contribution to make to their school community.

The School Day

Supervision is provided in the Junior Yard in the morning from **9am**. School begins at **9.15am**.

Children are then met by their teacher at **9.15am**, who escorts them into class.

Morning Break : 10.40am – 10.55am

Lunch Time : 12.30 – 1.00.

School ends for Junior & Senior Infants at **2pm**.

School ends for 1st – 6th class at **3pm**

Attendance

Your child should attend school every day.

All absences must be explained in writing, to your child's class teacher. If your child is ill, please do not send them to school. Take

your doctor's advice regarding rashes and infections. Schools have an obligation to report absences of twenty days or more to Túsla, the Child and Family Agency. For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parents. Children should only be collected early if it is absolutely necessary.



General Purpose Fee

Parents are required to pay a General Purpose fee to the school at the beginning of each school year. This fee covers the cost of Book



Rental*, Arts and Crafts Supplies, photocopying etc.

Books: Your child's books, copies and portfolios are kept in the school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework.

School bags: Back packs should be large enough to hold an A4 size folder and your child's lunchbox

** Book Rental covers the use of reading books for the Junior classes and reading books, maths books and SESE books and materials for the Senior classes. Parents will be supplied with a **booklist** for workbooks, copies and other necessary equipment which will need to be purchased before the start of the school year. Senior students will need to purchase a school homework journal from the office.*

Contact Information



It is very important that you keep us up to date with contact numbers in case of an emergency.

Remember to let us know, if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

Communication

The school will communicate with the parents in several ways. They will include phone call, text, email, e-newsletter and school website. Parents can contact the school by phone at 045 875 311, email at admin@naascns.ie or call to Janice our school secretary at the office.

The school is a NUT FREE ZONE!

We have several students with a nut allergy. Our school is a nut free zone in order to keep our students safe. If your child has a severe nut allergy you need to notify the school. If they have an adrenaline pen parents must ensure that the school has a pen that is in date at all times.

Healthy Snacks and Lunches

The school operates a Healthy Eating Policy. The goal of our Healthy Eating Policy is to encourage children to have lunches which are : high in fibre, low in sugar and low in salt. For healthier school lunches choose the following foods regularly:

- Milk, cheese and yogurt
- Fish, chicken, lean meat or eggs
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Wholegrain bread
- Drink of Water, Milk or unsweetened Juice



In effect this means that your child should bring:

- Healthy lunches each day with one treat on Fridays

You can find further information on healthy lunches for children at www.safefood.eu and www.earlychildhoodireland.ie

Please bear in mind that the children only have a short time to eat. For their morning break (10.40 – 10.55) a small snack such as a piece of fruit is ideal, as they take their snack out to yard for playtime. At lunch-time (12.30) the children have 15 minutes to eat their lunch in the classroom before heading out to play at 12.45pm. If your child does not finish their lunch any uneaten food should be taken back home in the lunchbox.

School Uniform

Pupils are required to wear the full school uniform to school at all times, except on P.E. days, when they should wear the school tracksuit and runners.



Uniform	Tracksuit
Red v-neck jumper	Black tracksuit jumper
White shirt	Red collared t-shirt
Black trousers / skirt	Black tracksuit bottoms

Pre-crested jumpers and tracksuits are available to purchase from Richie Whelan Menswear, Main Street, Naas

Richie Whelan Menswear

Main Street, Naas.

☎ Phone: 045 897 939

Alternatively, crests can be purchased from the school office and attached to generic uniforms.

Parents please ensure to label all of your child's belongings especially coats, jumpers, lunchboxes, schoolbags, school books, folders, copies and pencil cases.

Jewellery: For safety reasons, the ONLY items of jewellery the children are permitted to wear are watches and/or stud earrings. All other items of jewellery will be confiscated, placed in an envelope and may be redeemed from the office by a parent/guardian. Long hair should be kept tied back at all times.

Mobile Phones / Electronic Devices



The school strongly discourages the bringing of mobile phones to school by students. The school is prepared to allow mobile phones on the premises but only within the parameters of our Mobile Phone Policy. Further information can be found in our Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices policy. Please also see our Social Media policy for information regarding use of networking sites, blogs, etc.

Accidents in School

If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted by the school.



Child Protection

The [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#) published by the Department aims to give direction to school management and staff regarding the identification of and response to child protection concerns and the process for continued support of the child. The Children First Act 2015 provides for a number of key child protection measures that are relevant to schools and registered teachers including:

- a) A statutory obligation on schools to keep children safe from harm and to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement;
- b) A statutory obligation on registered teachers to report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to Tusla;

c) A statutory obligation on mandated persons to assist Tusla in the assessment of a child protection risk, if requested to do so by Tusla. In our school the **Designated Liaison Person** for dealing with Child Protection is the principal, **Mr. Paul Ennis**. The **Deputy Designated Liaison Person** is the Deputy Principal, **Ms. Michelle Nolan**.

Health Issues / Allergies & Emergency Medication

The school has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing, of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date. Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.



Long Term Health Problems

Where there are children with long-term health problems in school, proper and clearly understood arrangements for the administration of medicines must be made with the Board of Management. This is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. It would include measures such as self-administration, administration under parental supervision or administration by school staff.

Life Threatening Conditions

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions, parents/guardians must clearly outline, in writing, what should be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child. If emergency medication is necessary, arrangements must be made with the Board of Management. A letter

of indemnity must be signed by the parents in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of medication.

Parent Teacher Meetings & School Reports

Individual parent teacher meetings take place for all students early in December each year, where parents will receive an initial school report and have an opportunity to discuss their child's progress.



Parents and teachers will have informal contact on a daily basis when children are brought to and collected from school. However, if you have concerns or questions, please make an appointment and we can meet to discuss these at an appropriate time that suits both parties. Teachers are responsible for the children in their care from 9.15. End of Year School Reports are issued in June each year.

Parental Involvement

As a Community National School, we view the education of you children as a two-way partnership between you, the parents, and us. It is a TEAM effort where **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore.



You can become more active in this partnership by getting involved in our Parent Teachers Association. You may have some time or skills that would benefit our school. It is proven that children learn more, behave better and are happier in school where there is strong positive support between school and home. By getting involved, you are shaping the future of your school.

Getting involved is easy – Come along and offer your time. It might be to make teas on Open Day, help out with the Book Fair, run fundraising events, run parent talks / information events, support educational events in the school and/or give your views on school policy formation.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents” **Jane D. Hull**

Parent/Child Projects & Initiatives

During the year we will be inviting parents/guardians to help in the school with parent/child activities.

Board of Management

The school has a Board of Management which meets a minimum of five times a year. Information on what is discussed at the school’s board meetings is outlined in an agreed report which is given to our Parents Association and is posted the outside noticeboard for viewing by the school community.

The Board consists of eight members who include the Principal, patron nominees, teacher nominees, parent nominees and community nominees. The Board manages the school on behalf of the Patron and is accountable to the Patron and the Minister. The Principal is

responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, including guidance and direction of the teachers and other staff of the school, and is accountable to the Board for that management. The Board has overall responsibility for school policies. Therefore, there are a range of different school policies that Boards will, from time to time, be involved in developing, implementing and reviewing as appropriate. Examples include the Admission (enrolment) Policy, Child Safety Statement, Code of Behaviour/Anti-Bullying Policy, School Attendance Strategy, Health and Safety Statement etc.

Transport

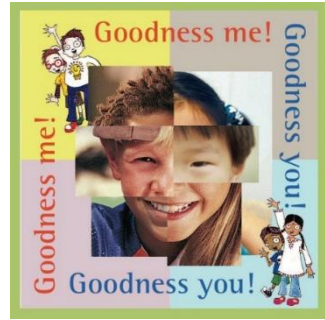
Children arrive to school by bus, car and on foot. We have a drop off area at the front of the school. Parents are asked not to park in these areas and not to park on the school roundabout at school opening and closing times. If there are no parking spaces available parents are asked to park off site and walk the children to and from school.

Subjects

The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the education of children in Ireland. Under the curriculum laid down by the Department all students will be taught the following subjects - English, Gaeilge, Maths, Science, Drama, Geography, Music, History, Physical Education, Science, SPHE, and Visual Arts. Community National Schools also provide a multi-belief education programme, '*Goodness Me - Goodness You*', within the school setting during school day. This commitment is an important and distinguishing feature of Community National Schools.

Goodness Me – Goodness You

GMGY is our multi-belief and values education curriculum. This curriculum is unique to CNS schools and is taught in all classes. As part of GMGY children learn about areas such as identity, values and philosophy.



GMGY recognises the wide range of cultures, religions and beliefs in our community and values the importance of the family in order to support the children in sharing and learning about each other's beliefs/religions. Throughout the year parents will be asked to partake in aspects of GMGY within our school.

Can your child make their Communion and Confirmation?

Preparation for these sacraments takes place outside of the school day. The classes are run by the local parish. There is a cost associated with Communion and Confirmation preparation. The cost is determined by and payable to the parish office. The current cost is €100. It is important to note that sacramental education or preparation for Communion and Confirmation does not take place in our school as part of the GMGY curriculum.

Gaeilge



The Irish language and culture plays an important role in the everyday life of Naas CNS. We encourage staff and children to speak Irish informally during the day. If you have any basic Irish please use it as much as possible informally at home.

Special Educational Needs

We welcome all children into our school. It is important to note, in relation to applications for the enrolment of children with special needs, it is essential that a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report is given to the school upon enrolment. We require this in order to establish the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her needs and to access and organise the support services required.

Learning Support

Learning support teaching is offered to children who are experiencing difficulties in Literacy and Numeracy. The criteria for allocation is outlined in our school's Special Educational Needs Policy.

Language support teaching takes place in small groups a number of times each week, to help children with their acquisition of the English language. Children coming to school, for whom English is not their first language, are entitled to Language Support for the first two years of their schooling in Ireland



Homework

Homework is given to all pupils from Monday to Thursday each week. Try and have your child complete their homework when they come home from school, as they are still in school mode, leaving homework until later means your child will be tired and learn to resent it. If you find that your child is taking too long or struggling to complete his/her homework, please let the class teacher know.

Home Issues

If there are issues at home such as separation, family bereavement, etc. it can be helpful to the child if the teacher is aware of the situation. Parental separation or family bereavement can be traumatic for the child(ren) concerned if not supported. Any information is treated confidentially. Teachers can then support the student at school or link the family into suitable services. Teachers approach the issue with sensitivity and with a focus on the well-being of the children.

Behaviour

We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. All students, staff and parents are expected to follow our Code of Behaviour. Our 6 school rules are at the heart of this Code. They are as follows:

- ☞ Come to school... be prepared
- ☞ Be Safe Everywhere
- ☞ There is a time to listen, a time to talk and a time to do
- ☞ Have kind hands, kind feet and kind comments
- ☞ Be caring, helpful and sharing
- ☞ Naas CNS is a bully-free zone



Extra Curricular and After School Activities

Extra-curricular and after school activities are offered on a year to year basis. The school has competed in gaelic football, soccer, basketball, cross country running and school quizzes. After school activities this year have included cooking, Irish dancing, chess and yoga.

Recycling

We will be encouraging your child to have an understanding and to engage in recycling. We would ask that lunches are placed in lunchboxes and that you will promote recycling in your home. Any packaging brought in by students will be brought home to recycle. Children will bring home any fruit skins in their lunch boxes for composting.

Student Photos and GDPR

All parents must sign a student data consent form. Please be aware if you do not give consent for your child's photo to be taken they will not be included in photos of school/class activities.

Ways in which you can prepare your child for school

- Talk to him/her about school. Concentrate on the positive aspects of school, such as the friends your child will make and the activities they will do such as painting, making jigsaws and going on trips.
- Give your child an input into their school life such as buying a new school bag, pencil case, new school shoes.
- Practice nursery rhymes at home and read some well-known fairy tales. Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence.
- Play helps a child develop motor skills, oral language skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills in order to establish friendships. Games such as snap, matching, jigsaws etc., have much educational value.
- Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be traumatic and exciting, and also very tiring.
- Ideally after the first couple of days of school, you should bring your child to the school yard, and allow them to enter the school with their class instead.
- Encourage independence – practise skills with your child such as putting on his/her coat, opening and closing his/her coat/school-bag/lunch-box/bottle. Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.

