

# Presentation Primary School



*'Tell me, and I forget,  
Teach me, and I remember,  
Involve me, and I learn.'  
Benjamin Franklin*

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**Website:** [www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)

**Postal Address:** Station Rd., Portarlington, Co. Laois

**Presentation Primary School is a Catholic School under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.**

**Our School**

- ✓ aims to provide a caring learning environment which facilitates the nurturing of each pupil's full educational potential.
- ✓ is committed to making sure that your child is happy, and we aim to do this through working in close partnership with you.
- ✓ is a welcoming and inclusive community that is respectful and tolerant of all religious traditions and beliefs.
- ✓ provides the opportunity to worship through prayer and the celebration of the liturgy and the Sacraments.



*Praise the youth & they will shine!*



**mól an óige agus tiocfaidh sí**

## **The School Day**

Infants: 08:45 – 13:30

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class: 08:45 – 14:30

Infant children can enter the school hall in the Extension Building from 08:35 where they will be supervised until 08:45. We ask that parents do not enter the building but drop your child at the front door, where staff members will be stationed.

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> cannot enter the school building before 08:50. We ask that parents do not enter the schoolyards in the mornings. The yard will be supervised from 08:35.

Break: 10:30 – 10:45

Lunch Break: 12:30 – 12:55

## **Punctuality**

The children must develop the habit of being punctual for school. Teachers will record lateness, and it is unsettling for everyone. Children who arrive after 10:00 will be marked as absent, and this will affect their attendance figure.

## **Pupil Collection**

The school needs to be notified in writing if a child needs to leave school early. No child may leave school without a parent or guardian during school times. If someone other than a parent is collecting a child, please notify the school in writing. All parents who collect their child early from school will have to sign them out in the Office. There can be no collections in the final 15 minutes of the school day as this is a hectic time.

## **Attendance**

Please make sure your child is in school every day. The Education Welfare Act requires children to be in school every day unless there is a reasonable explanation for not attending. Pupils absences should be explained on our Aladdin app. The Education Welfare Act states that the relevant authorities will be informed of pupils who have been absent for twenty days or more (this includes illness, holidays outside school holidays etc.) A child showing signs of illness should be kept at home.

## **School Uniform**

The full school uniform is worn on all school days other than on P.E. days when the P.E. uniform is worn.

### Infants

Infants wear the infant tracksuit all year, which can be purchased from Colgan Sports in Portarlinton.

- ✓ Blue crested polo shirt
- ✓ Infant crested tracksuit
- ✓ Runners – Black or Navy

### 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class

- ✓ Blue Skirt or pinafore
- ✓ Check shirt
- ✓ Navy cardigan with a crest or V-neck jumper with crest
- ✓ Navy socks or tights
- ✓ Navy tie
- ✓ Footwear – Navy/Black shoes or boots

### P.E. Uniform

- ✓ White polo shirt
- ✓ Navy tracksuit top with crest
- ✓ Navy tracksuit bottoms
- ✓ Runners – Black, Navy or White

### Summer Uniform

During September, May & June the girls may wear a white polo shirt and plain navy shorts to the knee.

## **Dress Code**

Stud earrings may be worn. No other jewellery is allowed. Makeup is not permitted, and appropriate hair-style is required, hair that is bleached, tinted or dyed is not permitted.

## **Labelling**

All clothing (including hats and scarves, school bags, lunch boxes and drinks' bottles must be marked with children's names.

## **Healthy Lunch Policy**

To encourage healthy eating habits from an early age and improve our pupils' overall nutrition and concentration, Presentation Primary promotes and implements a Healthy Eating Policy in our school. Parents are requested to provide a healthy lunch each day for their child. In consideration of children who have nut allergies, parents are asked not to include such products in their child's lunch, e.g. peanut butter, Nutella spread etc. We ask that parents give their children water to drink. The following foods are not permitted; this is not an exhaustive list and may be altered or added to by the teacher or Principal.

- |                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| ✗ Fizzy Drinks               | ✗ Sweets    |
| ✗ Crisps                     | ✗ Lollipops |
| ✗ Chewing                    | ✗ Nuts      |
| ✗ Frubes (in infant classes) | ✗ Biscuits  |
| ✗ Chocolate                  | ✗ Cakes     |

Please only give your child something you feel that they can manage to eat quickly within break times. Please provide your child with a lunch box/drinks bottle that they can open and close themselves. Glass bottles are not permitted.

## **Birthdays and Party Invitations**

In line with our Healthy Eating Policy, children are not allowed to bring 'goodies' to school to celebrate birthdays. Their special day will be celebrated in other ways such as singing 'Happy Birthday'. We also do not allow birthday party invitations to be given out in school or on the school grounds, to avoid causing upset to those not invited, or to avoid putting pressure on families. Please adhere to this rule at all times, and no exceptions will be made.

## **Toys**

We would ask that toys and special possessions are not brought to school as any loss or damage can be very upsetting for pupils.

## **Care of Hair**

Parents are asked to check their child's hair regularly for outbreaks of head lice. If there is an outbreak of head lice in a class, all parents of pupils in that class are informed by note and asked to take immediate action to treat the infestation. Girls with long hair should have it tied back.

## **School Calendar**

At the start of the school year, each family will receive a copy of the school closures for the year, and the calendar will also be available at [www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie). For example, any additional events, Parent/Teacher Meetings, Staff Meetings, Tour Dates, etc., will be communicated to parents as they arise.

## **Homework**

Here in Presentation Primary, we adopt several different homework strategies. These will differ, depending on your child's class level. Time spent will vary from day to day but should not exceed 45 minutes. Many classes set weekly homework that can be completed throughout the week.

## **Book Rental**

We are running a very efficient Book Rental scheme from 1st to 6th class. This allows parents to rent textbooks for their child rather than buy them. This works out cheaper for parents and also friendlier for the environment.

## **E-Payment**

Parents can avail of an e-payment facility that we have here in the school. Parents will receive an email with a link to the payment if they choose to pay online. Otherwise, we accept cash in the Office.

## **School Rules**

1. Pupils leave and enter the school building in an orderly fashion.
2. A pupil must not behave in any way which endangers themselves or others. Rough play comes into this category.
3. Any form of threatening behaviour is unacceptable.
4. Any instructions or direction given by the supervising teacher or Special Needs Assistant are to be complied with.
5. Pupils line up in an orderly manner at the end of breaks.
6. Pupils are not allowed to run on the corridors.
7. Pupils may **not** re-enter the school building without the express permission of a teacher or Special Needs Assistant.
8. If due to inclement weather, the pupils are allowed to remain indoors, they must remain seated.
9. All pupils are expected to treat staff and their fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times.
10. Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter-free.

## **Mobile Phones/Ipods/Ipads/Smartwatches**

Children are **not permitted** to bring mobile phones, iPads, iPods or smartwatches to school, or school events. Any phone found will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent. We also request that parents do not make or receive calls while on the school premises. Camera phones are not to be used in the school at any time.

### **Class allocation.**

Currently, we have a school policy whereby children are reassigned to different class groups when entering 1st and 5th. We have adopted this policy to continue social development, maintain a balanced academic level within a group, and prepare for secondary school. Girls will always be given an option to transfer with a selected friend.

### **Sanctions/Good Behaviour**

The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

- ✓ Reasoning with a pupil.
- ✓ Verbal reprimand, including advice on how to improve.  
Temporary separation from peers, friends, others.
- ✓ Note in homework journal to parents.
- ✓ Good behaviour is recognised and encouraged in class and throughout the school, e.g. '*Realt na Seachtaine*'

### **Bullying**

Bullying is repeated aggression, either verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by individuals or groups against each other.

Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, which should not be condoned, cannot be described as bullying. However, when the action is systematic and ongoing, it is bullying. It may manifest itself in many forms such as physical aggression, damage of property, extortion, intimidation, isolation, name-calling and "slagging". At the centre of our school's response to bullying is the continued development of a positive school climate which focuses on respect for the individual. It is an essential element of school policy to raise awareness of bullying as unacceptable behaviour. **Cyber Bullying** is something we have to deal with also.



A single negative message, video or online comment is deemed to be bullying. Our Anti-Bullying Policy is available to download on [www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)

We are all aware of how dangerous low self-esteem and social media can be especially to a child's mental health. We would like to clarify that;

- ✓ **Face to face bullying** is not acceptable. This means that a child is commenting or taunting another pupil on several occasions.
- ✓ **Cyber-bullying** is not acceptable. A **single** negative message, video, or comment online is deemed bullying because it has the power to be read by several people and exist on a group chat or video app.

Language or comments that are abusive, sexual, racist, homophobic etc. will not be tolerated during the school day or directed to a child in our school by another child in our school online.

We respect parents' decision to give their child a mobile phone and social media apps, but we ask you to regularly monitor your child's phone or device as a responsible adult.

The content, messages and videos that have come to our attention are quite worrying for us. Please make sure you have full access to the device and that no apps are hidden in folders etc. off the landing page.

We also strongly advise that you contact the school rather than talk to any child directly other than your daughter, of course.

Any incidents of cyberbullying between students in our school will be dealt with through the Deputy Principal or Principal. Screengrabs/screenshots must also be available as evidence of the bullying. *Our teachers need all the time possible to teach their classes and currently, too much time is being taken up with phone related issues.*

We cannot accept excuses such as a phone was 'hacked' or another child logged into their account. As with all online accounts, passwords should be private to you and your child. Responsibility will be on the child who owns the account which you have allowed them permission to have. Retaliation is not an excuse for vulgar comments

### What sanctions are in place to implement our Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy?

If a pupil's phone is confiscated in school, it must be collected by a parent, and it will not be returned to the pupil. Both the pupil and parent will need to sign a pupil promise before the phone is returned.

**Face to face bullying** – Parents will be invited into school to discuss the incident, and a written warning will be issued. On the second incidence, parents will be asked to discuss what took place and a suspension of one school day will be issued. This process may start again for further incidents, and any suspension could be increased in length. Both the child and parent will need to sign a pupil promise before returning to school.

**Cyber Bullying** – If a child's parent brings evidence of a nasty, malicious or abusive message/video to our attention, the school management will investigate. We can only use our Code of Behaviour sanctions if both the bully and the victim are pupils in our school. A written warning will be issued on a pupil's first incidence, and the second incidence will result in a one-day suspension. This process may start again for further incidents, and any suspension could be increased in length. Both the child and parent will need to sign a pupil promise before returning to school.

**Disrespect to School Staff** - Parents will be invited into school to discuss the incident, and a written warning will be issued. On the second incidence, parents will be asked to discuss what took place and a suspension of one school day will be issued. This process may start again for further incidents, and any suspension could be increased in length. Both the child and parent will need to sign a pupil promise before returning to school. *(Teachers will have their own class rules to create a positive class environment, three offences or disrespect in a school year will result in a written warning).*

*\*for grave offences as per our policy **a pupil may be suspended after one gross breach of behaviour.** Written warnings will be kept on file and active for the length of time a child is in our school. The written warning and second incidence can be a mixture of cyber and face to face.*

## **Health & Safety**

Please refer to our Health & Safety policy which can be downloaded from our website at [www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)

## **Home – School Communication**

A positive home-school partnership enhances a child's happiness and progress in school. If you have any issues or concerns relating to your child, please discuss them first with the class teacher.

- ✓ If you need to meet the teacher, please make an appointment by writing a note to the teacher, and they will phone to arrange a suitable time.
- ✓ Meetings with the class teacher at doors to discuss a child's concern/progress is not permitted as it is difficult to be discreet during this time.
- ✓ Individual parent-teacher meetings are held for all classes. If you have a concern, please don't wait until then to talk to the teacher. In turn, be assured that if a teacher has a concern s/he will contact you.
- ✓ Each year a written report on your child's progress, attendance and punctuality during the previous school year will be sent to you at the end of June. This report is intended for the attention of parents/guardians of the named child.
- ✓ Parents should contact the secretary on (057) 8623007 if they wish to arrange a meeting with the Principal.
- ✓ Our *Aladdin Connect* App is used to connect with parents. Please ensure you are registered for this app.
- ✓ All classes are using the *Class Dojo* app as a reward incentive and as a way to communicate with parents.
- ✓ Parents will be kept up to date on all activities in our school through social media and our website. Parents will also receive by email a monthly newsletter.

Website: [www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)  
Facebook: @presprimportarlington  
Twitter: @pres\_port

### **Parking**

- ✓ In the interest of safety, parents' are to park in the parents' car park. The staff car park is not available to parents.
- ✓ Parents and other visitors to the school are **not to park** in front of the school or drop off zone at any time.
- ✓ Before and after school, parents and other visitors to the school are asked **not to park on the street or near** the pedestrian crossing outside the school.
- ✓ Parents are asked to turn Left down Station Road when leaving the school.

### **Bus Companies**

Two local bus companies drop and collect children from the school. These are *McCanns & Whelans*. Their numbers can be found on the noticeboards at both receptions. Parents need to be aware that the school is not responsible for this transport and any issues that arise are between the bus company and the parents. Only the junior infant and senior infant children are supervised on to the buses. All other children must make their way on to the bus.

### **Child Protection**

In recent years, as a society, we have become very aware of child abuse through neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

Each of us must protect children and **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011)** notes that teachers, who are the primary caregivers to children outside of the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse. In response to this, the Department of Education and Skills published **Child Protection Procedures for the Primary and Post Primary Schools (2011)** concerning child protection and welfare.

These procedures promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of Presentation Primary School has adopted these procedures without modification as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse (neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse), they are obliged to refer this matter to the Children and Family Service of the H.S.E. The H.S.E. will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned. In our school, the **Designated Liaison Person** for dealing with Child Protection is **Mrs Mairéad Terry**

### **Weekly Assembly**

The weekly assembly, led by a different class each week, is a celebration assembly. It provides an opportunity to come together as a whole school and celebrate the week.

There is a different theme each week and the class leading the assembly share some of their work, their achievements and school news with the rest of the school. This may be done through a combination of poetry, music, song and dance. The junior classes have their weekly assembly. Each week a '*Realt na Seachtaine*' award, based around the theme, is presented to a child from each class, to recognise their effort in school.

### **Stay Safe Programme/R.S.E. Policy**

All Primary Schools are required to implement the Stay Safe Programme fully. The Stay Safe Programme for primary schools plays a valuable role in helping children develop the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse and potentially abusive situations.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.) is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum. The school's policy is based on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment guidelines and approved by the Department of Education and Skills. Copies of the policy are available on request from the school office/school website. Parents should be aware that all teachers will be using the anatomically correct terms when discussing body parts.

## **Accident Procedures**

- ✓ Accidents occur despite supervision. Minor accidents are treated at school. Slight cuts and scrapes are usually treated by cleaning with cold water. When a dressing has been put on a wound, parents must inspect the wound when the child gets home.
- ✓ In the event of an accident/child becoming ill, every possible effort will be made to contact the pupil's parents or the persons delegated to take responsibility for them.
- ✓ Please complete the form giving details of home/work phone numbers. The school should be notified immediately of changes in mobiles (in particular) and any other modifications.
- ✓ Non-co-operation in this matter could result in a delay in having your child attended to medically, should the need arise.
- ✓ Please ensure that alternative contact consent has been received and that these contacts live locally.
- ✓ The school will not accept responsibility for any medical expenses incurred.
- ✓ There is a facility for parents to take out insurance to cover medical expenses incurred due to an accident at school. Details of this scheme are circulated to parents in September.

## **Sport**

Presentation Primary School offers the girls equal many opportunities to participate in all sporting activities.

### Sports include:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| ✓ Gaelic Football | ✓ Basketball |
| ✓ Swimming        | ✓ Camogie    |
| ✓ Athletics       | ✓ Tag Rugby  |
| ✓ Spikeball       | ✓ Rounders   |

We encourage all children to take part in as wide a range of sporting experiences as possible.

1st to 6th Class go swimming each year for some lessons to the *Portarlinton Leisure Centre*.

## **Music**

We have an excellent school choir from 4th class upwards. They perform at the Sacraments each year and at other school and parish events.

We are lucky to have a school band that performs each year at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

## **Board of Management.**

It is the duty of the Board of Management (under section 15 of the Education Act 1998) to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and their parents and to provide, or cause to be provided, appropriate education for each student at the school for which the board has responsibility. If you wish to contact the Board of Management, you may do so through the school.

## **Parent's Association. (Affiliated to N.P.C. Primary).**

The parents association in any school is the structure where the Parents can work together for the best possible education of their children. The parents association works with the Principal, staff and the Board of Management to build effective partnerships between the home and school.

**All of our school policies are available on our school website.**

[www.presprimary.ie](http://www.presprimary.ie)

The information in this booklet is essential to the smooth running of Presentation Primary School. We ask that you take a due care to read through all the information that is included.

We will retain this booklet in the school after it has been returned signed by parents. The reason we ask you to sign is that you are aware of what are the expectations that we have for our students. We aim that your child will leave here in 6th class with the best possible education available. As a parent, you are the primary educators, and together in partnership with our school, we can give your child the very best.

Kind regards,  
School Management

I agree that I have thoroughly read the information in this booklet and will endeavour to follow the daily practises and rules of Presentation Primary School.

Child's Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_