

WELCOME

TO OUR SCHOOL!

Saint Feichín's National School
Cross
Co. Mayo

MOL AN ÓIGE, AGUS TIOCFAIDH SÍ

Information Booklet
for Parents/Guardians



OUR VISION

Saint Feichín's National School is a rural, three-teacher, Catholic, co-educational primary school with multi-grade classes. We endeavour to provide a caring, happy, secure and Christian atmosphere where the varied needs of the pupils are addressed. These include the moral, cultural, academic, physical, spiritual, aesthetic, social and personal needs of the child.

Although our school has a Catholic ethos, it recognises and respects other religions.

We encourage the participation of parents in the life of the school through home/school links.

SCHOOL DETAILS

Saint Feichín's National School
Cross
Claremorris
Co. Mayo
F12 RD90

Tel : 094 9546321
Email : crossns1854@gmail.com
Website:
www.stfeichinsns.com

Our school strives to enrich the self-esteem of the whole school community and to instil in the pupils a sense of respect and responsibility for themselves, for other people and for property.

We promote gender equity amongst staff and pupils.

Spreagfaidh muid na páistí chun Gaeilge a labhairt.

Our school motto is: **Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.**



SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

The official opening hours of the school are 9.20 am – 3.00 pm. Parents will be notified in advance of all school holidays and closures. The school adheres to the Department of Education standardised year.

School doors cannot be opened in the morning until 9:10 am. This is for insurance and supervision purposes. Please do not drop off your child until this time. Pupils arriving after 10:20 am will be marked absent for that day.

At 2:00 pm the infant classes are brought to the gate where they are collected by their parents/guardians. At 3:00 pm, all other pupils are accompanied to the school gate. Please ensure that your child is collected on time at the end of the school day.

Parents are reminded that the Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils before the official opening time of 9:10 am or after the official closing time of 3:00 pm, except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management.



ABSENCES

Under the Education Welfare Act 2002 the school is obliged to inform the Education Welfare officer of all absences exceeding 20 days during the academic year. Parents must inform the school of the reason for their child's absence from school. This can be done via the Aladdin Connect App.

PUPILS LEAVING DURING SCHOOL TIME

Parents/ guardians must notify the school in advance and in writing if their child must leave the school during school time and indicate who will collect them.

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

During the school year, appropriate educational outings will be available to all children and parents are asked for consent on the school enrolment form.

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS

Birthday party invitations should not be distributed during school time.

MOBILE PHONES/DEVICES

Mobile phones/devices are not permitted on school premises during school hours or on school outings.

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure your child's name is on all clothing, lunch boxes and books.

MONTESSORI

The Children's House Montessori operates on the school premises. Further information is available from Caroline on 087 3864766. Caroline also runs the Junior Homework Club for junior and senior infant pupils between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm.



CURRICULUM

The primary school curriculum is divided into the following areas:

- English
- Gaeilge
- Mathematics
- Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (History, Geography and Science)
- Arts Education (Visual Arts, Music and Drama)
- Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education



SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

In Saint Feichín's National School we have two Special Education teachers (SETs) to ensure that the individual needs of all pupils are met.

We aim to support pupils experiencing difficulties through a team approach involving the pupil, class teacher, SET team, parents, and other relevant personnel e.g. psychologist, speech therapist etc.

SNA support is available to certain pupils when approved by the DES.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As we are a Catholic School, religious education is an integral feature of our school programme. In co-operation with parents and guardians, we aim to nurture Christian values in our children, love of God and others and respect for all.

The religious education programme (Grow in Love) is taught throughout the school.

Preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion is carried out in Second Class. In Fifth and Sixth Class (every two years), the students prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

During the year a number of religious occasions and feast days are recognised and celebrated at school e.g. St Brigid's Day, St Patrick's Day, Catholic Schools Week, Lent, Advent.





HEALTHY EATING

As part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) Programme, we encourage the children to become more aware of the need for healthy food in their lunch boxes. A strict healthy eating policy is in place.

We ask that children do not bring the following to school:

Snacks known to be high in sugar, saturated fat, salt, additives and preservatives, including the following:

- Crisps (including crisp-style snacks)
- Fizzy Drinks
- Sweets
- Chocolate (including bars, chocolate spread and chocolate yogurts)
- Cake/Bun
- Biscuits
- Chewing gum
- Popcorn



TREAT DAY

Friday will be our treat day. On this day, children can include something from the following list:

- Fun sized bar
- Slice of cake/bun
- Biscuits

Please ensure that your child has a lunchbox and drink that they can open and close independently.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We firmly believe in the importance and value of extra-curricular activities for our pupils and we aim to provide a broad range of opportunities. These can include: sport, music, drama, chess, quizzes, technology etc. We participate in a variety of initiatives such as Creative Schools, Green Schools, Amber Flag, Green Flag, Discover Primary Science etc. We are also a Digital School of Distinction. Please see our website and our school blog in particular for more detail.



HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday with the children being excused homework on weekends. Our Homework Policy is available on our school website. If homework is not completed, a note to the teacher should be written in the homework diary.

Please note: it is important that your child has somewhere quiet to study away from noise and distraction – a busy kitchen or a room with a television are not recommended!





SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform consists of:

- Green sweatshirt with the school name
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt or plain grey jog bottoms (no logos or designs)

The school sweatshirt is available from The Schoolwear Centre, Centrepoint, Liosbán, Tuam Road, Galway or online at <https://www.theschoolwearcentre.ie/product-category/primary/cross-ns/>.

The other items are available from Dunnes, Tesco, Marks and Spencer etc.

For PE, pupils should wear their school sweatshirt, polo shirt and grey jog bottoms.

Younger pupils are encouraged to wear shoes with velcro until they have learned to tie shoe laces.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The BOM has overall responsibility for the school, including finance, maintenance, staffing and the development of the school plan and policies.

The Board comprises of two direct nominees of the Patron, two elected parents (a mother and a father) the Principal, one other teacher on the staff elected by vote of the teaching staff and two extra members proposed by these nominees.

The Patron appoints the Chairperson of the board.

The term of office for the Board of Management is four years.

RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The school operates in accordance with the rules for national schools. The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the D.E.S.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

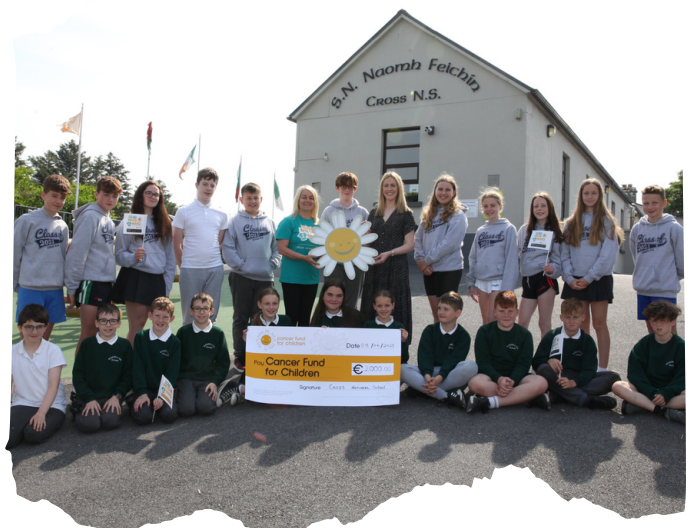
Our school has a very active Parents' Association and we are a member of the National Parents Council.

As a parent/guardian, you are automatically a member of the Parents' Association. If you are interested in assisting the committee with their work, or if you would like to learn more about the Parents' Association, we would encourage you to attend meetings and become involved.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council was first established in 2023. The purpose of the council is to give pupils a greater voice in the decision making process of the school.

Pupils from first to sixth class are elected to the council for the duration of the academic year.



COMMUNICATION

The school communicates with parents via an app called Aladdin Connect. Information about this will be sent to you before your child starts school. Messages will be sent to you regularly using the noticeboard section of the app. The reasons for school absences must be recorded on Aladdin. Online payments can also be made through the app.

Some information may also be sent via text and email.

Parent/Teacher meetings take place in Term 1 and a school report will issue at the end of the school year.

Parents can request a meeting with a teacher by making an appointment.

Newsletters/messages are distributed regularly by email or Aladdin Connect.

The school website is www.stfeichinsns.com and we have a school blog which is updated regularly. We can also be followed on Twitter @crossns1854.

PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The school will put 24 hour cover in place at an annual cost of €9 per pupil. Details of this will be sent via Aladdin at the start of the year.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

Every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians by phone/text in case of emergency closing.

The school uses a text service so please ensure all mobile numbers are updated regularly with the school.

Please check that the school is open before leaving your child at school.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents are asked to discuss their concerns with the class teacher initially, by making an appointment.

If the matter is not resolved, parents should contact the principal by making an appointment.

The school Complaints Procedure is available on our website.

SCHOOL RULES

1. School begins at 9.20 a.m. and ends at 3.00 p.m. Pupils are required to be on time, to remain on the school property and leave only with the permission or in the care of parent/guardian.
2. Pupils are advised to be vigilant when coming to and going home from school, showing particular care when crossing the main road.
3. All movement within the school must be in an orderly manner, with due regard for safety.
4. Pupils are absolutely forbidden to leave grounds without the permission/supervision of a teacher.
5. The use of crude/vulgar language is strictly forbidden.
6. A strict healthy eating policy is in place. Crisps, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are forbidden. Pupils may bring a small treat on a Friday (see Healthy Eating Policy).
7. Pupils are required to bring all necessary equipment for school and to do their homework.
8. Full uniform must be worn at all times.
9. Inform the teacher in writing of all absences.
10. Pupils must always treat the staff, visitors and other students with respect.
11. Pupils must play safely at all times. Anti-social, dangerous or hurtful behaviour is forbidden.
12. Pupils should walk to the gate at home time.
13. Keep the schoolyard litter free.
14. Respect school property – trees, shrubs and school equipment.
15. Be truthful and honest at all times.
16. Mobile phones/devices are not permitted on school premises during school hours or on school outings.
17. Children are not allowed to bully others and should bullying occur parents/teachers should be informed immediately.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Instructions given by the teacher must be followed.
2. Pupils should work to the best of their ability and present exercises neatly.
3. Work quietly. Do not disturb others who are working.
4. Pupils must stay seated in their places unless told otherwise.
5. Respect others. Be kind with your words and actions.
6. Work and play safely.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

The Board of Management is obliged to report any concerns in relation to child abuse to Tusla in accordance with the Guidelines and Procedures issued to all school by D.E.S.

Tusla will assess the case and put measures in place to provide the necessary supports for the child concerned.

Abuse is defined as neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse. A copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement is available on the school website.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Copies of the schools' policies are available on request from the office. Some policies are also available on our website.

ANTI BULLYING

In St. Feichín's N.S., we strive to create a positive school climate, which focuses on respect for the individual.

This encourages trust, caring, consideration and support for others. Pupils are encouraged to report incidents of bullying.

All reports will be noted, investigated and dealt with by the teachers.

Our policy is available on the school website.



OUR STAFF

TEACHERS

SINÉAD MULDOON (PRINCIPAL)

CATHERINE PRESNAIL (DEPUTY PRINCIPAL)

CHANELLE O'HAIRE

SIOBHÁN GERAGHTY

ANN MARIE HERWARD

SINÉAD GILLESPIE

SNAS

MARY GILLON

REGINA SICE

SECRETARY

AMANDA MORLEY

