



2023 Ceistneoir Folláine - Aiseolas na dTuismitheoirí / 2023 SSE Wellbeing Questionnaire - Parental Feedback

An bhfuil aon rud breise gur mhaith leat go ndéanfaimis chun tacú le folláine do pháiste ar scoil?
Can you suggest anything that may help us to improve your child's(ren's) well-being in our school?

Ráiteas - A leanas roinnt dos na topaicí a luaigh tuistí / Statement - The following are some of the areas parents/guardians mentioned:	Freagra agus/nó Gníomh / Answer and/or Action
<p>Cumarsáid / Communication Some parents expressed a desire for more communication with parents outside of the allotted parent/teacher meetings.</p>	<p>Changes already made to school practices in relation to communication via Seesaw to ensure the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more time to focus on our core purpose of teaching and learning - Seesaw changed to an information-only source & to provide updates on the school day - email communication is encouraged for queries and to discuss any areas of concern - school calendar @gsmnc.ie outlines most activities and is updated regularly - support teachers will share student support plans with relevant parents before the 10-minute PT meeting in November - formal review of support plans to take place by phone or in person in January and June - <p>From Sept 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - termly/half-termly information emails will be sent from each class grouping outlining what will occur in the coming term - a 'bcc' check-in email sent to all parents before the February break reminding them to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns
<p>Tacaíocht do Thuistí Nua / Support for New Parents Some parents expressed a desire for more information about school processes and practices for new infant parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A section for 'new parents' was created on the school website in September 2023 - Guides on how to use Aladdin and Seesaw to be uploaded - Aladdin guides have already been uploaded - <p>From Sept 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More time to be allocated to the above at the infant parents' introductory meeting in Sept. 2024 - Cairde & school to create a buddy-type system for families new to the school



<p>Éide Scoile / School Uniform Some parents expressed a desire for more flexibility around the school uniform policy, the wearing of black shoes and tracksuits and more non-uniform days.</p> <p>Some parents also felt that children should not be signalled out for incorrect uniforms and shoes being worn</p>	<p>We have made an effort to accommodate as many requests as we feel we can reasonably do while</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining an emphasis on our values of equality, respect & cooperation - keeping with our school identity and policies, as agreed by all incoming families. - abiding by our school dress code and appearance as outlined in Appendix 6, pg 33 of the 'Cód Iompair' which all families have signed. The school policy is available on the School Website at the following link Cód Iompar - implementing no uniform days on the last Friday of each month - ensuring the tracksuit can be worn two days per week, one being on Fridays - 6th class hoodies are permitted on Fridays in the 3rd term and during the entire month of June - other special days such as Christmas Jumper Day, Green Day, Pyjama Day, and Red Day are celebrated <p>Wearing of the uniform and school tracksuit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parents are responsible for the uniforms and appearance of the infant to 2nd class children - children from 3rd to 6th class are expected to begin to take responsibility for their uniforms, footwear, appearance and presentation - parents are requested to send a note via Seesaw or email if the correct school clothing cannot be worn -
<p>Obair Bhaile / Homework Some parents felt too much HW was being assigned and there was a need for greater flexibility around the frequency of HW.</p>	<p>As per our policy, there is currently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no HW for the first two and a half weeks in September, - no HW for two weeks before Christmas, or the week before the Easter break - no HW in June - written HW from Monday to Wednesday only - no written HW on Thursday - reading and revision only - HW assigned at the beginning of the week to help with flexibility and different family dynamics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moving forward birthday HW passes to be given to all children on the evening of their birthday or at the earliest time possible before or after their birthdays - a review will take place of the HW policy in June 2024 with special attention to be paid to the workload in 1st and 2nd classes



Corpoideachais & gníomhaíochtaí eile / Physical Education and other activities

A number of parents would like more time allocated to PE and outdoor pursuits, as well as a greater variety of activities and more sporting opportunities for girls.

- All classes are timetabled for a minimum of one hour per week
- In addition, weather-dependent, classes partake in the daily mile several days per week.
- Adequate school supervision arrangements and structure allow children to run in the yard, courts or Astro during break times. (Many primary schools do not allow children to run in the yard)
- Both 5th & 6th classes are permitted to play soccer on the Astro during break times
- 3rd & 4th classes have skipping ropes and hula hoops during their second break
- Training before school for 5th * 6th class girls and boys

This year all children from Juniors to Sixth will have participated in activities such as Just Dance, Go Noodle, hurling, camogie, football, Irish dancing, Drama and a STEM and Circus activities workshop.

- Junior to 2nd class will have participated in boxing classes
- 2nd to 5th will have received tin whistle lessons
- 3rd to 5th will have participated in swimming lessons
- 4th class learned to cycle and will receive soccer training
- 4th to 6th will have participated in Rugby training
- 5th & 6th will have received bodhrán lessons
- Vex Robotics in 5th class
- School Choir from 4t to 6th
- 3rd to 6th class will have completed 10 weeks of French lessons
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Girls receive the same sporting opportunities as the boys and are being catered for in the following ways in the school

- Camogie and football training in the mornings and after school
- After school basketball and soccer training
- Other after school activities that both boys and girls participate in are Chess, Ta Kweon Do, piano, French, drama,

Moving forward we can

- incorporate Damhsa ar an Déardaoin - a song will be played on the tannoy and the entire school will get to stop their obair scoile and dance for the duration of the song
- utilise the nearby walkway to take more regular opportunities to visit the nearby forest



Folláine / Wellbeing

It is evident from the survey that real concern exists for children's well-being in our school

We have already implemented the following to help with those concerns before Sept 2023

- Each child is welcomed, mostly by senior staff, each morning and time is taken to chat with them individually. Any concerns from these invaluable interactions are relayed to class teachers.
- Music is played on the intercom/ tannoy system from 8:40 - 9:00
- Handle with Care email facility
- 6th class traffic wardens available to escort children to the various doors
- 6th class morning transition buddy system in operation for those that require it
- Access to Autism class or sensory room provided for those that find morning transitions challenging
- Over the Tannoy - morning prayer recited, birthdays announced and achievements and significant news celebrated
- Regular movements breaks via Go Noodle or Just Dance
- Some classes engage in Yoga, meditation, mindful colouring as well as the daily mile
- The outdoor classroom is used during the warmer months
- Small social groups in operation to help children, who struggle socially or who are anxious
- Transition to Secondary School Groups
- Restorative Practice to deal with all levels of conflict with an emphasis on building empathy, resilience and the vital skills of conflict resolution
- Curricular programmes being taught such as Weaving Wellbeing, Stay Safe, Webwise, Fuse, Restorative Practice to help with understanding, resilience and overall well-being
- outside practitioners brought in to teach children about cyber safety, well-being and transition to secondary school
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Restorative Practice in operation several days a week since Sept. 2023

- morning check-in circles are in place - children share where they are on a scale of 1-10 emotionally and mood-wise to foster empathy and to get to know one another
- teachers model emotional intelligence, expression and resilience
- children learn about tolerance, active listening and conflict resolution
- during conflict the word '**why?**' is not used - children are initially asked **what happened?** and both sides of the story is heard and no one is accused of anything
- restorative conversations take place between both parties or in small groups



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - children are allowed to express themselves in English if they are struggling with the terminology in Irish - class restorative circles are used to teach and discuss a variety of topics and issues occurring within and outside the class - Information Evenings took place for 4th to 6th class parents in September to highlight and discuss the biggest challenges faced by children of that age and stage. <p>The following will be implemented in full from Sept 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be grateful/ thankful as a school for different events and resources each week. - Sensory boxes created and available at the bottom of each classroom where students can take time out of the hustle & bustle of class life, if needs be - Glac Anáil ar an Aoine - The entire school will follow a yoga lesson at a particular time on Fridays
<p>Gutháin Póca & Scannán / Mobile Phones & Movies Some parents expressed a desire to ban mobile phones for all children until 1st year at least and another expressed dissatisfaction with Parental Guidance, PG-rated movies being shown to the children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently, the school mobile phone policy does not allow for any students except those in 5th & 6th to have switched off phones on school premises, which are handed over to the class teacher and given back to the children for their return journey home after school - The school mobile phone and smart devices policy is available on the School Website at the following link. Mobile and smart devices policy - <p>From Sept. 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parents in 4th & 5th classes were already informed at the Sept. 2023 meetings that no smartphones will be permitted for the above purpose next year. - Children will only be permitted to have an old-style phone with no internet access on the school grounds - Whole school community supporting Minister Norma Foley's "Keeping childhood smartphone free initiative" - A school campaign by parents and Cairde to encourage parents not to buy phones for their children while in primary school would go a long way to achieving the same. It's worth noting that tablets can be as powerful and dangerous as mobile phones.



	<p>Scannáin / Movies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although teachers are in 'Loco Parentis' during the school day, it was agreed by the in-school leadership team that no PG-rated movies should be shown to the children while they are in school - If teachers feel the need to show a PG-rated movie they must first receive written permission from all parents via Aladdin before doing so -
<p>Athmheascadh Ranganna / Class Reconfiguration Some parents expressed dissatisfaction with the class reconfiguration process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school policy is available on the School Website at the following link outlining the need for class reconfiguration. Athmheascadh Ranganna - Due to the 2024/25 staffing schedule issued by the Department and due to most classes being reconfigured last year, no class reconfiguration is required in any class grouping this year - Concerns have been taken on board and a school-wide class reconfiguration incorporating so many classes will not be required again - Moving forward each year the Board of Management and Inschool leadership team will discuss the need to reconfigure classes as outlined in the school policy. These will predominantly take place at the end of senior infants and third class. -
<p>Lón Scoile agus méid na ranganna / School Lunches and smaller class size</p> <p>Some parents expressed concern over the length of time children are allowed to eat</p> <p>Some parents also felt that less emphasis should be placed on the size of treats in lunch boxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each school must follow a set amount of time for small and big breaks - Despite the departmental guidelines, all infant teachers allow extra time for eating by doing SPHE or reading stories etc to the children while they eat - Some children like to be social and can get a little distracted while talking at this time and therefore do not always get to finish their lunch. Teachers do their best to encourage the full eating of lunches. - From May 7th 2024 onwards all children within the school will be entitled to a FREE hot lunch prepared on the school site by School Food 4 Primary. - As a school, we will have to ensure adequate time is allotted to each class grouping to allow the children time to eat their free hot lunch. - <p>Appropriate and healthy lunch being provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parents are responsible for the food contained in the lunch boxes and should ensure it is as healthy as possible - an appropriate sized treat is important as we are trying to ensure the children eat less sugar while in school

