



Information for Parents 2022 / 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Ashbourne Community National School (CNS) we will endeavor to make your child's time here a very special experience. The year ahead is an exciting opportunity to create a happy learning environment for everyone in our school community. We look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks and months. We will look to organise a parent information meeting in September for all classes. We are a rapidly expanding school and we will have new additional staff for September 22/23. Class allocations will be announced for all classes in August. As you may be aware we are moving into new accommodation over the summer located at the roundabout at Donaghmore GAA club. We will be in touch in August when the building is complete with further details. This booklet is designed to help you prepare your child for school by offering some helpful tips and useful information.

Jenny Byrne (Principal, Ashbourne CNS)



Mission Statement

At Ashbourne CNS we seek to provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every pupil to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. We promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by pupils, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

Pupils, staff and parents at Ashbourne CNS worked together to define our values , mission statement and our school crest. Our four key school values : Courage, Creativity, Collaboration and Care are visible on our school crest. This crest was made by all of us and represents who we are and are striving to become. We were assisted in this creative process by Aisling Byrne, our Creative Associate under the Creative Schools initiative awarded to us by the Arts Council of Ireland.

**Please read our section on school uniforms for further details on our school crest.*





Ashbourne Community National School is a multi-denominational school under the patronage of the Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). We opened in September 2019 to our first pupils. Community National Schools (CNS) are child-centered publicly accountable schools which strive to provide a high-quality education for every child.

Everyone in the school community has the right to be happy and to be able to learn in a safe and respectful environment. To do this we have a responsibility to work together to support and encourage each other. In order to build the trusting respectful relationships which are the corner stones of our school, we listen to and accept others for who they are. We negotiate our differences using Restorative Practices and learn to become resilient using '7 Caring Habits' (Glasser) as our school rules.

At Ashbourne CNS we...

1. Listen
2. Support
3. Encourage
4. Negotiate
5. Respect
6. Accept
7. Trust



This helps establish a structured framework and an explicit language to build positive relationships for students, teachers and parents. By working together using these habits we cultivate the sense of community which is vital to promoting wellbeing for all.



Growth Mindset

Ashbourne CNS is a school that promotes Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset is about fostering the belief that all children can improve and develop their knowledge and skills through effort. Intelligence or talent are not innate gifts. Praising effort and hard work instead of praising talent or intelligence helps children develop a growth mindset. When children and adults have a growth mindset they build the resilience needed to overcome adversity and support well-being.

Code of Positive Behaviour

Restorative Practise, Growth Mindset and Glasser's Caring Habits are the foundations onto which our behavioral policy was created. It is available to [view on our website here](#) where all school practises are outlined in further detail.

Core Values and Ethos of Community National Schools

Community National Schools are state run co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by the core values of: Respect, Community, Equality, Care and Excellence in Education.



In Community National Schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Preparation for School – Junior Classes

Starting school is a major milestone in the life of your child. Before your child starts Junior Infants in September, it is important that they are as independent as possible. It would greatly help your child's progression this year if they were able to do the following things by themselves before starting school:

- Put on/take off their coat, button/unbutton it and hang it up.
- Fasten/tie their own shoes – Velcro fasteners are handy.
- Use and flush the toilet independently. Open trousers etc.
- Washing their hands with soap and drying their hands without assistance.
- Use a tissue where necessary and understand cough etiquette.
- Open food containers and fruit independently.
- Recognise and look after their own belongings.
- Share toys with others and take turns.
- Tidy up and put toys and their lunch away after them.
- Please remember to have a name label on your child's belongings including their uniforms to help both them and us keep track of their belongings.
- The school does not facilitate birthday parties. Party bags or birthday invitations are not to be given out during school time.
- Due to allergies all types of nuts are not permitted on the school grounds.
- If your child needs prescribed medication during school hours please contact school for administration of Medicine Form. Children are not permitted nonprescription medication at school.
- Camera phones are not permitted at school. All phones are to be turned off in school bags and not to be taken out until outside the school gate.



Other examples of ways in which you could help your child prepare for their learning include conversing with your child, reading to your child and repeating nursery rhymes in their mother tongue. It is also very important to encourage your child to manipulate toys such as jigsaws, Lego, play dough, and provide paper and crayons for colouring and scribbling at home.

Preparation for School - Older Classes

In the older classes we look to further develop the pupil's independence. They will be expected to organise their own school day including belongings and begin to take ownership over school events e.g., knowing what days P.E is on and that tracksuits are required on these days.

All personal belongings should be labeled with the pupil's name.

Morning Drop Off

All classes start at 09.10am. The children will line up from 09.00am in the yard and are supervised by staff until collected by their teacher and brought to class for 09.10am. The board of management does not accept responsibility for pupils arriving before that 09:00am.

Roll call takes place from 9.50am-10am for all classes as per Rule 55(4d) of the Rules for National Schools.

Arrival after roll call AND for a period of less than 4 hours of school does NOT constitute attendance. This is outlined in Rule 56(2c) of the Rules for National Schools. Therefore children attending for less than 4hrs are marked absent as per rule 56.

Parents of infant children: When you arrive at school be as casual as you can. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and leave without delay. The teacher will bring the children out to parents at home time, specific guidelines will be shared in advance of the opening. Once children enter the gates and care of the teachers they are not permitted to leave again without permission of staff.

Collection / Going Home Time



- Junior and Senior Infant classes go home at 13.50.
- All other classes finish at 14.50.

It is very important that the children are collected from the school on time. If for any reason you are delayed, please call the school to let the teacher know.

If your child must leave the school early, they must be signed out at the office by the designated adult. Children from 2nd class may walk home with written permission on Aladdin.

Aladdin Schools Connect: Our School uses Aladdin Schools Software to give you secure access to your child's details and data regarding attendance, test results, report cards etc. This is all provided via a secure login and enables parents to update phone numbers, addresses and other contact details if there are changes. Please [download the Aladdin Connect App here](#), it is widely used by primary schools and there is further information available on how it works.

When your child is enrolled the administrator will set up a student profile for your child and send you log in details.

Aladdin Connect is the main form of communication between home and school. Any absences are to be recorded on the app. Absences for more than 20 days are reported to the Education Welfare Officer. We do not provide work for children going on holidays or longterm leave.

Parking and Traffic Restrictions on Campus

To **KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE** parking & traffic restrictions are in place.

Pedestrian access only to school grounds.

Bikes and scooters must be dismounted at the school gate.

Please co-operate with signage and personnel and please walk and cycle to school if possible.

We appreciate your co-operation.

Junior Infants Information Section

Our open day for **Junior Infants** will take place on the 31st of August 2023 from 10.00 -11.00.

Parents/guardians and pupils will be invited into the school to meet the teachers and see the classroom and school building.

The school day will be from 09.10 to 12.00 from the 1st of September to Friday 09th September 2022. From Monday 12th September normal school hours will apply with Junior Infants finishing at 13.50.

Parent Information Meetings

Parents of pupils in classes from senior infants to sixth class will have the opportunity for an information meeting in September 2022. You will have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher and we will outline information about our school ethos, values and a general overview for the school year ahead for the pupils. Scheduled dates will be announced in due course.



School Office

Our school office is open from Monday to Friday 09.00 to 15.00 for any information or assistance you might require. Our office can be very busy so please check out the parent section on our [website](#) for information before contacting us on ashbournecons@lmetb.ie or by phone 086 8522068. Please email rather than leave a voice message.

If you need to contact your child's teacher, please email them directly. If you would like to meet with them, email them to arrange an appointment outside of school hours as during school time, they are devoted to teaching your child. Please outline rationale for meeting in advance.

Emails and messages to the office will be responded to during working hours of 09:00am to 3:00pm. Teachers will respond to communications outside of class time.

School Email Addresses:

JuniorInfants.ans@lmetb.ie

SeniorInfants.ans@lmetb.ie

FirstandSecond.ans@lmetb.ie

ThirdandFourth.ans@lmetb.ie

FifthandSixth.ans@lmetb.ie

School Uniform

Our school uniform is generic and can be purchased at a variety of outlets such as Dunnes Stores, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Penny's and Next.

Our school crest is to be purchased via Way to Pay and ironed onto the jumper or cardigan.

All children are expected to present in full correct uniform with crest.



The uniform comprises of:

- navy skirt or pinafore, trouser
- red polo shirt
- navy V neck jumper or cardigan.
- Although there is no specific type of school shoe required, please adhere to the following guidelines:
 1. Junior and Senior Infants must have shoes with Velcro or must be easy to fix, **no laces please!**
 2. Shoes must be comfortable and suitable for play and physical education (PE).
 3. Shoes with wheels, lights or high heels are not permitted.
 4. Wheeled school bags are not permitted are health and safety reasons.
 5. Jewellery worn around the neck needs to be inside the shirt and only studs are permitted as earrings.

For PE navy Track suit bottoms and a navy round neck sweatshirt with red polo shirt and runners are required. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly written on everything they own. These are easily available from Dunnes, Tesco and Marks & Spencer etc.



Your Child's Learning and Development

The Primary School Curriculum sets out 7 curricular areas. Your child will be learning about...

- Languages: English and Irish (Gaeilge) and an awareness of other modern languages.
- Mathematics
- Social Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE): History, Geography and Science
- Arts Education: Drama, Music and Visual Arts
- Physical Education (PE) & Well-Being
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) & RSE
- Multi-Belief and Values Curriculum: Goodness Me Goodness You! (GMGY)



Aistear, the curriculum for infant classes, emphasises the importance of play, communication and engaging children in problem solving, inquiry-based approaches to develop their knowledge, skills and curiosity. Playtime is an essential part of the school day. Structured play can assist your child in developing the necessary skills to build relationships, be creative, think and plan, use language and develop fine and gross motor skills. At ACNS we take a holistic approach to learning, aiming to develop a love of learning in children which drives them to maximise their potential academically and socially.

Our school takes part in a number of initiatives such as the Languages Connect program where pupils get to sample a modern language. Last school year pupils got to learn some Tamil and

explore the culture around the language. RTE News Today even came to our school to document our experiences of this wonderful initiative.

Information on the Primary Framework Curriculum can be found [by clicking here](#).

Information on the Draft Primary Maths Curriculum can be found by [clicking here](#).

Partnership Schools Ireland

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) is a collaboration between the National Parents Council (NPC) the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) and the Department of Education and Skills (DES). Its aim is to improve children's educational outcomes by increasing parental engagement and creating effective partnerships between schools, their pupils, parents and the wider community.

Our School Action Team for Partnership consists of two parents, three members of our local community, two members of our school staff, six pupils and our principal.

Our first two training days took place on the 27th of April and 04th of May 2022. Our first official meeting took place on the 14th of June 2022, where we collectively agreed our partnership goals for the 2022/2023 School year. Please [click here to read more](#) about this on our website.

Breaks and Healthy Eating Policy: All classes will have two breaks per day for a total duration of 40 mins in accordance with curriculum guidelines. Please make sure that all food is prepared for small hands. Manageable portions of fruit, cheese, bread and crackers are advised.



Our school has a healthy eating policy in place.

Fizzy drinks and unhealthy foods such as chocolate bars, biscuits, sweets, crisps and chocolate spread are not permitted.

Nuts are not allowed due to allergies.

Please ensure that your child's lunch box and bottle can be easily opened and is also labelled clearly with their name.

Sharing is caring but your lunch is your own. Children are not allowed to share lunches.

If your child has a food allergy, please inform the class teacher.

Party Bags for birthdays are not allowed. (Birthdays and special occasions will be celebrated in other fun and exciting ways). Teachers and children are not permitted to distribute party bags, cake or invitations on behalf of parents.

Eco-Friendly



At Ashbourne CNS we are conscious of the need to preserve the environment for our children. Staff, students and parents will work together to minimise our waste. With this in mind, we ask parents not to send any packaging into the school as part of your child's lunch. A lunchbox and reusable products are advised. The use of cling film, tin foil and other nonrecyclable plastic products are strongly discouraged (kitchen roll is a good alternative). All Waste and uneaten food will go home with children.

Books and Equipment

At Ashbourne CNS we operate a book rental scheme. All books are classified as school property. Textbooks, Workbooks and Copies will be provided by the school and the cost is €120 per year per child. This will be collected at the beginning of the school year via the cashless payment solution Way2Pay.



Student Direct Costs from Parents/Guardians for LMETB Schools for 2021/2022

LMETB School/College	
Details	Estimated Cost €
Book Rental (per year)	55
Printing, Photocopying and Art Materials	31.50
Home/School Communications (Aladdin, Way2Pay, ePortfolios, Homework material)	15
Events, Activities and Workshops	10
Insurance	8.50
Proposed Total Contribution Collected for 2022/2023	120

Signed:	Principal
Date: 02/03/2022	Jenny Byrne

Parents are asked to provide the following stationery in a simple pencil case:

1 st Class	2 nd Class	3 rd Class	4 th Class	5 th /6 th Class
5 Triangular Grip Pencils	5 HB Pencils	2 red biros	2 blue or black biros	2 Handwriting Pens
Sharpener	Sharpener & Eraser	Ruler 30cm	2 red biros	2 blue or black biros
Eraser	Ruler 30cm	Sharpener & Eraser	1 green biro	2 red biros 1 green biro
Twistables	Twistables	Colouring Pencils	Ruler 30cm	Colouring Pencils
	2 red biros	5 HB Pencils	Colouring Pencils	Ruler 30cm

Please note:

1. All stationery is to be marked.
2. Markers are not permitted in textbooks.
3. Only stationery, a pencil case and a bag need's to be purchased, the school provides the rest.
4. Junior and Senior Infants do not need to bring any materials or a pencil case.

Important Details

- Children need to be independently dressing and toileting for school.
- Supervision before school starts at 09.00 in the yard. Parents must stay with their child until the teacher arrives and the children are supervised. As we are moving to a new school further details on collection and arrival will be released in due course.
- Junior Infants open day will take place on the 31st of August from 10.00 - 11.00.
- The school day will be from 09.10 to 12.00 from the 1st of September to Friday 09th September 2022.
- From Monday 12th September normal school hours will apply with Junior Infants finishing at 13.50.
- For the first day of school Junior Infants can be brought straight to their class at 09.00 by their parents where they can say goodbye and leave without delay.
- **To KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE on a very busy campus parking & traffic restrictions will be in place. Please co-operate with signage and personnel.**
- A uniform of a navy skirt, pinafore, trouser or tracksuit bottom with a red polo shirt and a navy jumper or cardigan is in place.
- School Crests are available to buy on Way 2 Pay and can be ironed on to jumper/cardigan.
- Your child's name should be clearly written on everything they own, the school is unable to take responsibility for lost items.
- Our school has a healthy eating policy. Please promote this when preparing lunch.
- Nuts are not allowed due to allergies.
- Party bags are not allowed at school. Staff will not facilitate distribution of invitations, party bags or cake.
- We ask parents not to send any packaging into the school as part of your child's lunch.
- Textbooks, workbooks and copies will be provided by the school and the cost is included in the contribution of €120
- A stationary list for each class is outlined in the above document.

Valuables such as computer games, smart phones and jewelry are not allowed at school as they could be lost or damaged. The school cannot take responsibility for such items.

Ashbourne CNS

2022 - 2023 School Calendar

August '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December '22						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July '23						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Low tech mobile phones are permitted but must be switched of during class.



School Closed/ Holidays



Half Day – 12 noon finish



CP hours – Close 1.40pm (Circular 14/04 for further Info)



Parent Teacher Meetings

School Hours

Gates open @ 9:00am and teaching starts at 9:10am

School closes @ 1:50pm for JNR and SNR Infants and 2:50 for 1st to 6th classes.