

Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál



*New Inn, Cashel,
Co. Tipperary.*

Phone 052 7462122

email: info@newinngirlsschool.ie

www.newinngirlsschool.ie

Mission Statement

Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, New Inn is a Catholic school and we are proud of our tradition which was handed down to us by the Sisters of Mercy, and we still maintain this Mercy ethos.

All staff are committed to a holistic approach in developing each child's full potential in a happy, positive and caring Christian environment. We encourage the involvement and support of the parents and the wider community.

School Motto:

“Ar aghaidh linn le chéile”

AIMS

- To co-operate with parents in the Catholic upbringing of their children.
- To encourage children to become responsible Catholic adults.
- To participate in prayer and the sacraments.
- To follow the national curriculum.
- To expose children to many different creative activities: e.g. music, dance, drama, art, etc.
- Foster an awareness of their personal, physical & mental wellbeing.
- To build on children's initiative in areas of responsibility and decision making.
- To foster good interpersonal relationships between all in the school: pupils, teachers, parents and non-teaching staff.
- To encourage children to be aware of the needs of others.
- To try ensure that those at risk – educationally, medically, physically, nutritionally, emotionally and socially – are adequately cared for.

General Details

- **Name of School** - Mhuire Gan Smál
- **Address** - New Inn, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.
- **Telephone Number** - (052) 7462122
- **Email:** info@newinngirlsschool.ie
- **Web Address:** www.newinngirlsschool.ie
- **Denomination** - Catholic
- **Chairperson of Board of Management** - Breda Hickey

- 5 class teachers including Principal Teacher & one jobshare
- Special Educational Needs Teacher

- Classes taught: Junior Infants - 6th Class
- Mixed classes until 1st class, after which it is girls only.
- School opening time: 9-30 a.m.
- School closing time: 2-10 p.m. for infants
3-10 p.m. 1st class on

The Board of Management will only take responsibility for children during school hours and 10 minutes before opening time and 10 minutes after closing time. At all other times children are the responsibility of their parents.

Members of the Board of Management 2023 - 2024

Chairperson:	Breda Hickey
Principal:	Tomás McLoughlin
Bishop's Nominee:	Fr. Bobby Fletcher
Teacher's Rep:	Karen Bourke
Parent's Rep:	Ronan Dempsey
Parent's Rep:	Isobel Lynch
Community Rep:	Sian McKenna
Community Rep:	Pat O' Rourke

Parents' Council

The Parents' Council is a voluntary group of parents that:

- ◆ assists the school principal and teachers with extra curricular activities.
- ◆ They represent the views of parents and provide a forum for consultation with the Principal on relevant issues.
- ◆ They help the school /B.O.M financially when suitable opportunities arise.

The Parents' Council holds it's *AGM* every autumn and all parents are invited to attend. The current officers are:

Aisling O' Dwyer	Chairperson	087 9520471
Sinead Boland	Treasurer	087 9546089
Brenda Shanahan	Secretary	087 2046400

Current Teaching Staff 2023 - 2024

<u>Junior Infants</u>	Ms. Kinane
<u>Senior Infants & 1st class</u>	Mrs. McMillan
<u>1st Class & 2nd class:</u>	Ms. Bailey
<u>3rd & 4th class:</u>	Ms. Bourke/Ms. Wallace
<u>5th & 6th class:</u>	Mr. McLoughlin (Principal)
<u>SET:</u> (Special Educational Teacher)	Mrs. Teresa Harrington (Deputy Principal)
<u>Ancillary Staff:</u>	
Secretary: Eileen Riordan	Cleaner: Cathy Moloney
Full time SNA: Mary Barlow	Caretaker: Peter Doyle
Part time SNA: Jodie McMahon	

The above are the current class divisions but these may vary from year to year depending on our numbers. Enrolment for new entrants takes place in early spring and when we have a reasonable idea of our proposed enrolment for the following September it will be decided what classes will be split. Any split class will have to have a gender balance. It has been decided by the Board of Management that the divide will be made at random on a lottery basis. This draw will take place at the summer staff meeting in the presence of members of the Board.

School Hours

Opening Time 9.30a.m.
Closing Time 3.10p.m.
Closing for infants 2.10p.m.

Break Time: 10.50am - 11am

Lunch Time: 12.30pm - 1pm

<p><u>Office Hours</u> Tues, Wed, & Thurs - 9.30am - 3.30pm</p> <p>Monday & Friday - 9.30am - 12.30pm</p>
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School uniform

Girls: Navy pinafore/skirt/trousers, white blouse or polo top, red jumper with school crest & red tie.



Boys: Navy trousers, blue shirt or polo top, navy v-neck jumper with school crest & navy tie.



Crested jumpers are available to purchase in Uniform World, Ard na Gaoithe Business Park, Cashel Rd., Clonmel.

P.E Plain navy tracksuit bottoms and white/navy polo shirt and runners. ***½ zip school tops and tracksuit bottoms are optional and orders for these will be taken in school in early September***



Please ensure all items of clothing are marked with your child's name. Younger children should attach a keyring or some identifiable object to their school jackets (Zip/Pocket)

P.E.

Children wear their P.E. clothes on P.E days

P.E. days for 2023/2024 are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

School Rules

- ◆ Children are expected to behave in a mannerly fashion and to be respectful towards their teachers and each other.
- ◆ Children are expected to be punctual.
- ◆ Chewing gum or mobile phones are not permitted in school.
- ◆ A note is required (**By Law**) to explain all absences.
- ◆ Children are to wear their proper school uniform or proper P.E. uniform in school.
- ◆ Children are expected to be clean and tidy and in the interest of reducing the incidence of head lice, those with long hair should have it tied back.

Behaviour/Code of Discipline

It is our aim to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated, while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in school. The emphasis is on rewards rather than sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences and so the rules are being kept to a minimum. Each class teacher has the responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within the classroom. A pupil should be referred to the Principal only for serious breaches of discipline.

The following strategies will be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
3. Temporary separation from peers, friends or others
4. Loss of privileges
5. Detention during break
6. Referral to Principal
7. Note to parent
8. Suspension (under the terms of Circular 20/90 of the Department of Education) continuously disruptive pupils or a pupil guilty of serious breach of discipline may be excluded from the school. The maximum initial period of such exclusion shall be three days. The B.O.M may authorise the Principal or Chairperson to carry out this function.

The following rewards will be given to show approval:

1. Encouragement and praise (including public)
 1. D.V.D. (educational) occasionally
 2. No homework
 3. Responsibilities in school
 4. Prizes

Anti Bullying Procedures

"Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conduct by an individual or group against others.

Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, which should not be condoned, can scarcely be described as bullying. However when the behaviour is systematic and ongoing, it is bullying."

Every effort is made to create an environment of mutual respect and prevent bullying in our school. Children are taught to deal with issues of respect, trust, self-esteem and bullying through the S.P.H.E programme and comprehensive supervision and monitoring measures are engaged throughout the school.

If a child feels he/she is being bullied in school, this should be reported to the class teacher or the teacher on supervision. Serious cases of bullying are reported to the Principal. Parents will be informed if the bullying is not resolved in school and the incidence of alleged bullying will be further investigated. A meeting with parents or guardians of those involved will take place as appropriate.

Child Protection

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

Each one of us has a duty to protect children and *Children First*, the National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children noted that teachers, who are the main care givers to children outside the family, are particularly well placed to observe and monitor children for signs of abuse.

In response to this, the Department of Education and Science published *Guidelines and Procedures* for all schools in relation to child protection and welfare. These guidelines promote the safety and welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, New Inn has adopted these guidelines as school policy. Consequently, if school staff suspect or are alerted to possible child abuse they are obliged to refer this matter to the Health Service Executive (HSE). The HSE will then assess the situation and provide support for the child concerned.

Children First, the National Guidelines for the Protection of Children may be accessed on the website of the Department of Health and Children (www.dohc.ie) and the Department of Education and Science Child Protection Guidelines can be read on the Department's website (www.education.ie). Parents/Guardians are also welcome to look through the guidelines here at the school.

Parent /Teacher Meetings

Parent /Teacher meetings take place annually. You will be advised of the date when it has been fixed. Each parent is given a time allocation, if this time does not suit you please contact the class teacher and every effort will be made to accommodate a suitable meeting time. This year Parents have been given the option of having a PT meeting by phone call. Should you wish to meet a teacher to discuss your child's progress at another time of the year please ring for an appointment. Office hours 9.30 - 3.30pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs & 9.30am - 12.30pm, Monday & Friday

Parents of Junior Infants will be invited into school in June for a brief induction meeting when the general running of the school is explained and what is to be expected in the Junior Infant room.

What to do if you have a problem/complaint

Over the course of your child's education there may be times when you may question your child's progress or something that is being taught or the manner in which it is taught. Similarly, you may have concerns about your child's ability to mix and get on with his/her peers. Should you at any time have a concern/problem/complaint you should take the following steps.

1. Discuss the matter with the **class teacher** (please make an appointment)
2. If the matter is not resolved then discuss with **the Principal** (please make an appointment)
3. If you still have a concern/problem/complaint you should raise the matter, informally, with the Chairperson of the Board of Management.
4. If the complaint is still unresolved, you should lodge the complaint, **in writing**, with the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

SEN: Special Educational Needs

Presently we have a fulltime Special Educational Needs Teacher. This post is currently held by Mrs. Teresa Harrington, with support from a shared Special Educational Needs Teacher - Mary O' Donovan two mornings a week. Children who are in need of extra help in English/Maths, and those with emotional, behavioural and social development needs attend learning support. The normal procedure to avail of this help is that the class teacher, through assessments (Personal & Standardised), observation and with input

from Parents, and reports from outside agencies, would recommend learning support for the child in question. This recommendation is discussed with the SEN teacher and the parents of the child. The parents, if happy to put their child forward for educational support, give written consent. The need for this support is constantly reviewed and is withdrawn once it is felt the child is no longer in need of it.

The SEN teacher also operates a system of early intervention, currently with 1st class, where children attend an intensive language programme, consisting of phonological awareness strategies and a phonics programme "Jolly Phonics" is in use. This programme runs for the whole year.

Healthy Lunches

We have a healthy lunch policy in the school. Children are not allowed sweets, crisps or fizzy drinks in school at all.

On Fridays they are permitted to have **one small treat**:

for example,

- ◆ a piece of cake, a bun, a cereal bar, a biscuit, a fun size bar

As part of **our reduce, re-use, recycling policy** children are asked to bring home all uneaten food, wrappers & packaging on their lunches, in their lunch box.

Insurance

All children are requested to take out a personal accident insurance policy. The fee for this is €8.00 and is included as part of the fees on the book list. This is payable in September and gives your child 24 hour cover.

School Transport

School transport is available if you are on a bus route. Any enquiries with regard to school transport should be made to Bus Éireann, Primary School Transport Section, Plunkett Station, Waterford. (051) 873401.

- Applications must be made online @ www.buseireann.ie.
- Applications are accepted from January and must be in by the end of April.
- School transport is parents' responsibility.

Please note that the school bus travels at 3.10pm daily unless school is closing early - you will be notified in advance of these occasions. Also, please note there is no school transport available at 2.10pm. Currently transport is available to eligible children i.e: those who are over 3.2km from their school and attending the nearest school to their home.

Once all eligible children have been accommodated on the school bus and if there are seats available concessionary tickets are given to those interested in availing of school transport. Bus Éireann are not obliged to provide transport to pupils seeking concessionary tickets. Parents are advised to apply online **and as early as possible to have the best chance of securing a ticket.** Late applications, even from eligible candidates are not guaranteed school transport.

For further information see www.buseireann.ie.

Medicine

It is the policy of the school not to administer medication to children. If your child is on medication please arrange to meet the class teacher about the storage and supervision of same. Likewise please inform the teacher of any relevant medical complaint eg. Asthma, epilepsy, nut allergy etc

Confirmation and Communion

Children in 5th and 6th class receive Confirmation every second year, on the odd year e.g. 2025, 2027....

The date for Confirmation is given to us from the Bishop usually by the end of January. You will be notified of the date as soon as we get notification ourselves. Confirmation has taken place around the 2nd week in May for the past number of years.

First Holy Communion takes place annually for children in 2nd class. The date for First Communion is usually announced by the end of January. Traditionally First Holy Communion takes place in April/May. On the year that Confirmation is on we must wait until the date for Confirmation has been given to us to avoid clashing with it.

Extra Curricular Activities

- ◆ Senior School Tour (annually)
- ◆ Junior School Tour (annually)
- ◆ Local History/Geography Tour (New Inn/Knockgraffon, Cahir, Cashel)
- ◆ Sports Day (annually in June)
- ◆ Camógie/Hurling, Football. School leagues, Cuman na mBunscol competitions
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Athletics
- ◆ Gymnastics
- ◆ Tin Whistle (Wed. 3rd -6th weekly)
- ◆ Traditional Music Band - Play at various school occasions
- ◆ Film making - enter FIS competition

Fundraising

In keeping with the Catholic ethos and Mercy tradition of our school, we hold fundraising activities for the needy and the Third World. It is our policy to support those in need but we endeavour to limit this to one fundraising activity per term. Currently we hold a fancy dress at Halloween and children are asked to make a small contribution to a selected charity (Term 1). We have an Easter Egg Raffle in Term 2 and the proceeds are sent to some Third World charity - Trócaire/Bóthar/Goal. And in Term 3 we hold an ice-cream party in aid of Downs Syndrome Ireland in conjunction with our Sports Day.

Policies

The school has policies on a number of various topics. If you wish to see any of these policies at any time please contact us and we will arrange for you to see our **School Plan**. Alternatively you may visit our school website at www.newinngirlsschool.ie and view a selected number of our school policies there.

As a Mercy Pupil I am called to:

- ◆ Value my own worth as the child of a loving God
- ◆ Develop and share my gifts and talents to the best of my ability
- ◆ Show respect for all, having regard for rights of others
- ◆ Be particularly sensitive to those who have special needs
- ◆ Live in harmony with others, knowing how to forgive and to seek forgiveness
- ◆ Be a good team player, co-operative with teachers and other students
- ◆ Appreciate all of creation, caring for the earth and respecting life
- ◆ Grow in my understanding of my cultural heritage
- ◆ Respect people of other races, traditions and creeds
- ◆ Learn to be a responsible citizen

