



Holy Family NS, School Information

Ethos

Holy Family NS is a Roman Catholic School which aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. This school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

Mission Statement

Holy Family aims to create a secure, caring and creative environment for all

its children. 



School Hours

School begins at 9:20 am

Junior and Senior Infants finish school at 2:00 pm

First-sixth classes finish school at 3:00 pm

Break times are 11:00-11:15 am and 1:00-1:25 pm

Assembly/Dismissal

Children should line up in an orderly fashion in their designated area at the back of the school each morning. Children should be dropped off at the school between 9:10 and 9.20. Class teachers collect their line from the yard when the school bell rings at 9:20am. On wet mornings, the classroom doors will open at 9.15am. Parents are asked not to park in the designated drop-off zone at the front of the school.

Uniform

The school expects all children to wear a uniform:

- ❖ Navy blue jumper or cardigan
- ❖ Navy blue trousers or pinafore
- ❖ White shirt
- ❖ Red Tie

A separate uniform is required for PE days:



- ❖ Navy blue tracksuit top/sweater
- ❖ Navy blue tracksuit bottoms
- ❖ White polo shirt



Books/School reports

Class booklists are distributed along with school reports by post before the end of June. The books can be purchased from any book supplier. New entrants will receive their booklist at the same time.

Staff

We currently have six mainstream class teachers including a teaching principal, two special education teachers, two special needs assistants, two part-time secretaries and a part-time cleaner/caretaker. Our staff will grow in the new school year 2021/2022, as we will be opening our new Specialist Autism Unit and additional staff will join us then. The current staff list is:

Sarah-Jane Lewis (Principal & Junior Infant Class Teacher 2020/21)
 Anita Mc Ginn (Senior Infant Class Teacher 2020/21)
 Lisa Mullaney (First/Second Class Teacher 2020/21)
 Andrea Maguire (Second/Third Class Teacher 2020/21)
 Pearse Mc Groary (Fourth/Fifth Class Teacher 2020/21)
 Alan Sweeny (Sixth Class teacher 2020/21)
 Edel Mc Nally (Learning Support Teacher 2020/21)
 Anne Timoney (Learning Support Teacher 2020/21)
 Lorraine Mc Curtain (Special Needs Assistant)
 Kayleigh McDevitt (Special Needs Assistant)
 Margaret Everitt (Secretary)
 Paul Jordan (Secretary)
 Seamus Coughlin (Caretaker/cleaner)

Board of management

The Board of Management has legal responsibility for the overall running of the school and provides an appropriate education for each student enrolled in Holy Family NS. The board members serve for a term of four years. Meetings are held at least once a term and usually there are five meetings per annum. A meeting may be convened at any time to deal with any urgent matters that may arise. The current board members are:

Very Reverend Canon Ramon Munster (patron's nominee)
 Mary Mc Doogan (Patron's nominee)
 Sarah-Jane Lewis (Principal)
 Andrea Maguire (Teachers' nominee)
 Liam Travers (Parents' nominee)
 Sonya Davis (Parents' nominee)
 Marie Doherty (Community representative)
 Bernie Gillespie (Community representative)



Parents Association

The school appreciates the valuable support of the Parents' Association. The Parents' Association works with the principal and staff to build effective partnership between home and school. Meetings are held regularly and at the AGM each year a new committee is elected. The current principal officers on the Parents' Association are:

Angela Greenan (Chairperson)
Jackie Mc Cauley (Secretary)
Teresa Davis (Treasurer)

School accommodation

The school building has eight large classrooms with en-suite toilets, two learning support rooms, a general purpose/sports hall, a library, an outdoor classroom in the center of the building, visitor toilets, a secretary's office, a principal's office and several storage areas.

Externally, we have separate junior and senior tarmac play areas, a basketball court and a sports field. Outdoor play and activity is promoted and fostered. We have a school garden and bike facilities. We participate in Active Flag activities.



Policies

Copies of our Admission Policy, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy and Covid Response Plans are available on our school website. Other school policies are available on request.

***Covid-19:** Our Covid Response Plan is available via the following link:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/covid-19.html>

Some of our regular activities have been paused due to Covid-19 restrictions, however we have replaced these with Covid friendly alternatives to continue providing a vibrant and fun educational school experience.

Extra-curricular activities

The school participates in a number of extra-curricular initiatives. In 2019/20 we worked towards achieving an Active Schools Flag, a Health and Wellbeing Flag and an SFI Discover Science and Maths Award.

We enter a number of inter-school sporting competitions each year including Gaelic football, soccer and athletics. Each year we hold an internal school Gaelic football competition with the emphasis on participation and enjoyment. An athletics club meets one evening each week after school from February onwards. Swimming lessons are organized for senior classes in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre.

Teachers are encouraged to organize field trips for their classes throughout the year.

We regularly support dramatic productions in the Abbey Arts Centre. Mr. Sweeny co-ordinates a school choir to perform at various events throughout the year. Each class stage their own Christmas Show in the school hall. Last Christmas each class made a Christmas Mini Movies so families could enjoy performances at home. An end of year school trip is organized for each class in June.

The school also enters teams in the Credit Union Schools Quiz and Garda Quiz each year.

ICT

The school has G-Suite for Education and use Google Classroom in Senior Classes and Seesaw in Junior Classes. We have developed the technological infrastructure of the school and all classes have the use of Interactive Panels. We also have a suite of laptops for use in classes and shared ipads.



Communication

The welfare and progress of your child in Holy Family NS is our primary concern. With that in mind we have an open policy with regard to parental communication and home links are strongly encouraged in the following ways:

- Parents/guardians are frequently informed of school activities by email, newsletter or text.

- Each Teacher has a school email address where parents can contact them.
- Formal parent/teacher meetings are scheduled each November. However, parents are welcome to speak with the class teacher at any time. Other than minor communication, parents should make an appointment in advance via email or phone and they will be accommodated as soon as possible.
- The school website address is www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie. Here you can find further school information, school policies and information and pictures of class activities .
- We also have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. We share activities and information on school social media and have found this to be an effective way to welcome the school community into our classrooms and share school life.

You can find us on:



<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Family-National-School-443493775761145/>



Instagram follow us on holyfamilyns



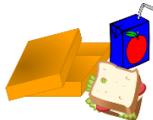
Twitter Holy Family NS Ballyshannon @HolyFamilyNS_

Healthy Eating Policy

The school has a healthy eating policy. We ask parents to ensure that their child bring a wholesome, healthy lunch each day. It should contain fruit, sandwich and a natural drink. On Fridays, children may bring a small treat with them. **Fizzy drinks, chewing gum and nuts are prohibited.**

Every child in the school receives a small snack each day as part of the government funded schools lunch scheme. These snacks are delivered by Carambola and some of the items are yogurts, popcorn, melon, cereal pots etc. The snacks are delivered in bulk each day and the class go through the menu and decide what they would like with their teacher, who will place the

order.



SPHE

Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) is a very important element of the school curriculum. SPHE covers a wide range of topics such as self-identity, making decisions, citizenship and relationships, which equip children with many of the skills and knowledge needed in today's world.

Holy Family NS teaches both the Stay Safe Programme and the RSE Programme as per best practice recommendations. The aim of the Stay Safe Programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children. The Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Programme includes the learning, understanding and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy.



We are an Amber Flag School: Promoting Positive Mental Health

We are delighted to have achieved the Amber Flag Award, this award focuses on wellbeing and along with the many wellbeing focused activities we have in the school, we also use the Friends for Life and Fun Friends Programmes that promote resilience and confidence in children.

We welcome you all to our school community and look forward to exciting times with you on your primary educational journey!