

Transport

The school is not involved in the arranging of transport to and from the school. There is a private bus company which operates a transport system to and from the school.

The contact person is:-

Mr. Eugene Deffely- (094) 9022662 (086) 2359786

Mr Conor Deffely - (086) 3645996

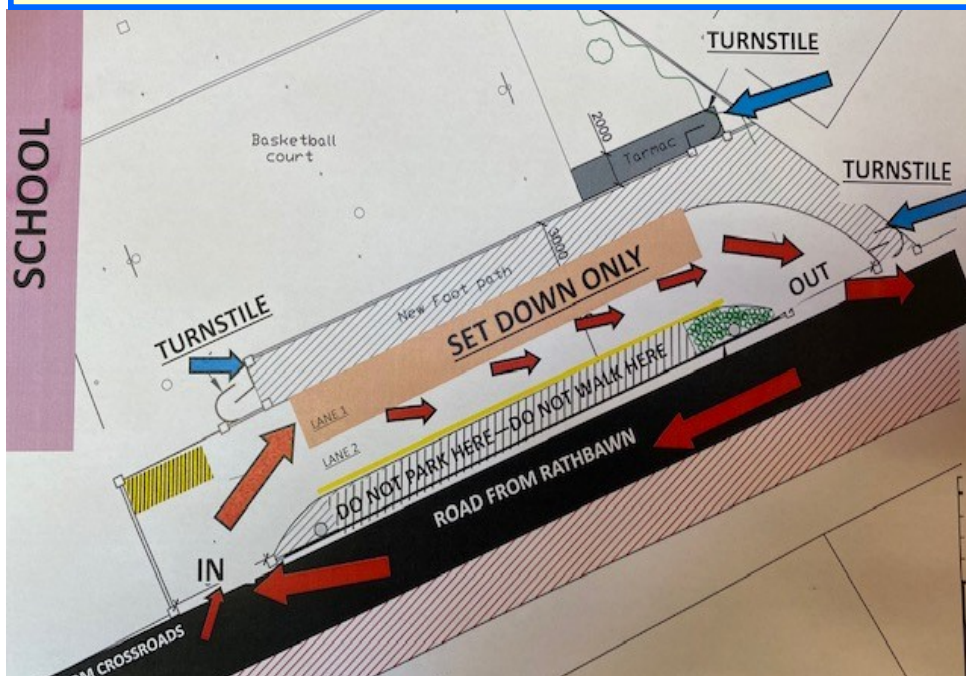


The Board of Management is not responsible for the supervision of pupils who travel on the bus before or after official opening and closing hours.

The school is not involved in arranging child care before or after school. There is a private after school club in Snugboro Community Centre.

The Contact person is :-

Ms. Orla Moran (087) 9614585



Set-Down Area-Snugboro School.

INFORMATION BOOKLET



For Parents of New pupils

**St. Peter's N.S.
Snugboro,
Castlebar.**

Phone: (094) 9023079

e-mail office@stpetersnssnugboro.ie

www.stpetersnssnugboro.ie





Our School Motto is :-

“Treat others as you would like them to treat you”

ETHOS:

St. Peter's National School is a Catholic school which accepts Catholic pupils. We also accept the children of no faith and of other denominations into our school and respect their beliefs/non-belief.

As a staff we aim to create a happy, secure environment for our pupils in order to create :-

- a) a positive learning ethos in which every pupil can grow and benefit from school,
- b) an atmosphere which helps pupils to become more self-disciplined and encourage good standards of behaviour.

This will lead to a sense of good order and a reasonable approach to discipline.

Congratulations and Welcome.

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

Welcome to St. Peter's N.S. , Snugboro. This booklet contains information for the parent(s) of our new pupils - Infants and other classes.

Although some information is aimed at Junior Infant parent(s), we hope that it will be a useful resource to help all parent(s) in relation to school matters.

Your child has reached an important milestone as he/she begins school here in St. Peter's N.S. Snugboro. We look forward to providing your child's primary education and we hope that he/she will have happy and productive days with us as we work together to build a solid foundation for his/her future life.

Yours in Education

Catherine McHale, Principal and Staff

Michael Kelly, Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Please ensure that your child's teacher has an up-to-date address and phone numbers. It is the parent's responsibility to inform in writing of any changes in name, address or telephone. We also need **two** further contact numbers for emergencies. We will then be able to contact you immediately if your child is sick.

Parents are asked to inform the school in writing if their child suffers from any allergies, long term or short term illness. Parents of pupils who are on medication or inhalers are asked to fill in a form (available from the acting Assistant Principal, Mrs Cooneys room) for school records.

Parking & Set-Down One Way System. We ask parents to drive with great caution. Please park beside the footpaths to allow for your child's safe arrival & departure from school. Exit promptly after your child has been dropped off/picked up. *(See Map on back cover)*

All Exits, the School Bus Parking and Disabled Parking areas which are clearly marked MUST be kept clear at all times.

Accidents



In the event of a serious accident the following steps will be followed:-

- 1) The parent (s) are informed immediately by phone. It is very important that we should have your correct phone numbers - at home, at work and /or mobile phone. *(at least 3 contact numbers)*
- 2) The child will be made as comfortable as possible
- 3) He/she will be reassured. They will be told that their parent(s) has/ have been notified.
- 4) A minimal amount of first-aid will be administered if deemed necessary.
- 5) In some cases it may be necessary to bring the child directly to the hospital/call an ambulance. The parent(s) will be informed of this fact.

Your permission to do this has been sought on the enrolment form

Attendance at School:

Under section 21 of the Education Welfare Act 2000 the Board Of Management of a recognised school is required to prepare a report twice a year on the level of attendances at the school. This report must then be submitted to the Child and Family agency (Túsla). If a pupil has 20 or more absences in the school year, the school is obliged by law to forward his/her name to The Child and Family Agency/Túsla.

Pupils are required to be regular in their attendance at school.

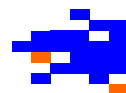
When a pupil is absent, an explanation by way of an e mail from the **PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)** must be sent to the school to office@stpetersnssnugboro.ie

When a pupil has to leave school early from school, a note from the **PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)** must be sent to the class teacher stating the time they will be collected and the name of the person collecting the child.

Parent - Teacher Communication - A few reminders:-

It is important to have up to date phone numbers and e mails addresses as the school uses texts & e mails for sending information to parents.

An annual parent-teacher meeting is held once a year for the parents of pupils in all standards. Adequate advance notice is given to parents about this private meeting.



The School Day



Arrival time:..... 9.10 am

Dismissal times for Infants:..... 1.50 pm

Dismissal times for 1st - 6th class:..... 2.50 pm.

These times are subject to change and you will be informed by e- mail/text if these times change.

The Board of Management accepts **NO** responsibility for pupils outside of these times. The school will open to receive pupils at 9.10 a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils who arrive before that time. Classes will commence at 9.20 a.m. No pupils should arrive later than 9.20 a.m.

Please collect pupils promptly when school finishes as the school **cannot** accept responsibility for children after these times. No responsibility is accepted for pupils who travel on the bus, i.e. Arriving/being collected outside of the opening times.



Lunches



Each Pupil has two breaks during the day:-

11.00a.m. - 11.10a.m. and 12.45p.m. - 13.15p.m.

- ◇ **Children** eat their lunches in the classroom, where they are supervised by a teacher.
- ◇ **In** order to promote good eating habits in accordance with the Department of Health and Education guidelines, lunches/ snacks should consist of sandwiches/wrap/pasta, fruit, yoghurt and a **non**-fizzy drink. Crisps, bars, sweets and chewing gum are NOT allowed in the school.



Due to a number of pupils with life-threatening food allergies in the school we request that parents/guardians **do not** include **nuts, nut products, cereal bars** which contain **nut** or **nut traces**, food containing **nuts** and food cooked in **nut** based oil in your child/ children's lunches.

We thank you for your co-operation.

Uniforms



School uniforms **must** be worn every day, except on P.E. day.

The school uniform consists of :

- ◇ Grey - Trousers / Pinafore / Skirt
- ◇ Light blue - Shirt / Blouse
- ◇ Navy - Jumper / Cardigan.
- ◇ a navy tie with a light blue stripe.
- ◇ Navy Tights
- ◇ Black Shoes
- ◇ School Track suit (crested, navy & saffron top & navy bottoms) + white airtex t-shirt with collar.



Children **must** wear **school** tracksuits, white T-shirt and runners for P.E on their designated P.E. day(s).

In fine weather children may wear navy or grey knee-length shorts.

All of the above items may be purchased in any good drapery store in town. The tie & P.E. track suit is available in Fahys Main St. Castlebar.

Please provide a change of clothes to be kept at school in a bag on their hanger.

PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS CLEARLY LABELLED.

In the early years shoes or runners with a Velcro fastener will enable your child to change quickly and independently.



Health & Safety:

- Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- Pupils enter and leave the school building at all times in an orderly fashion. Pupils must walk within the school building and enter and exit the building quietly.
- In the interest of safety when the bell rings during playtimes the children stop playing and move to their class lines. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers.
- Climbing on the school walls/perimeters is strictly forbidden.
- Cycling in school grounds is forbidden.
- Pupils play on the playground equipment only whilst there is a teacher supervising. **The playground is accessible during school hours only:**
- Chewing Gum is banned.

Substance abuse:

- Glass bottles, correction fluids, other solvents, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs are **NOT** allowed in or on the school grounds.

Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTVS) are installed in St. Peter's N.S.

Adequate signage will be prominently displayed at the entrance to St. Peter's N.S.' property. Signage shall include the name and contact details of the data controller as well as the specific purpose(s) for which the CCTV camera is in place in each location

WARNING **CCTV CAMERAS IN OPERATION**

Images are being monitored and recorded for the purpose of crime-prevention, the prevention of anti-social behaviour, the prevention of bullying, for the safety of our staff and students and for the protection of St. Peter's N.S. and its property.



This system will be in operation **24 hours a day, every day.**

These images may be passed to An Garda Síochána.

This **system** is controlled by the BoM of St. Peter's N.S. and operated by APM Securities

For more information contact 094 9060977



Behaviour

Our Motto is

“Treat others as you would like them to treat you”

All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect to other pupils and adults. Inappropriate language is unacceptable. Respect must be shown to the property of the individual and to that of the school at all times. If any deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement.

School Rules are devised with regard to the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. There are various sanctions which may be imposed on a child who breaches the “Code of Behaviour”

Our “Code of Behaviour” - Anti-bullying policy and our Acceptable use policy are available to view on our website www.stpetersnssnugboro.ie

Bullying

If you suspect that your child is being bullied the best person to contact is the class teacher. We have a school policy for dealing with bullying. The class teacher and staff will then implement that policy and follow the various steps contained therein.

Acceptable use:

Children are not allowed **Mobile phones/electronic devices** in school or on any school activity. If a child is found with a mobile phone it will be confiscated. In exceptional circumstances arrangements may be made between the principal and parents of the child to hold a mobile phone for a child in the office for use after school hours.

Some Golden Rules-from- Code of Behaviour/ Substance Abuse/ Health & Safety and Acceptable Use policies

Please visit our School web site www.stpetersnssnugboro.ie to view these policies.

Appearance of pupils:

- Pupils are expected to wear their **full school** uniform.
- Hairstyles are expected to be kept neat and conventional
- For hygiene purposes long hair should be tied back.
- Jewellery It is preferred that children do not wear Jewellery for Health & Safety purposes.
- Make-up is not worn during school times

Preparation for the First Day

Preparation for the First Day in St. Peter's N.S.

Tell your child about school beforehand, casually, and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome for him/her. There he/she will meet new friends.

A Word of Advice

- **Trust the teacher.** She/he is experienced and resourceful and is used to coping with all kinds of starting-off problems.
- **Try not to show outward signs of your own distress.** Sometimes parents are more upset than the child and may cause anxiety in his/her/their children.
- When you have reassured your child, leave as fast as possible. The teacher can distract and humour him/her more easily when you are not around.

It would greatly help if you practise the following with your new Junior Infant child :-

- ◇ Button and unbutton, zip and unzip his/her coat
- ◇ Put on and take off his/her own shoes
- ◇ Use the toilet without help.
(It is preferable that all pupils are toilet trained.)
- ◇ Tidy up and put away his/her playthings.

These skills help to develop manual dexterity and co-ordination which are pre-requisites to develop fine motor control .e.g. writing skills etc.

REMEMBER VERY IMPORTANT

Please label **all** belongings and **all** clothing
(including jackets/coats etc) with the name and class of your child.

For September, you will need to purchase a school bag, lunch-box and pencil case as well as the school uniform and tracksuit.

The Department of Education will provide funding to the school for your little one's books and copies for school. This funding does **not** cover the cost of photocopying, Arts & Crafts or pupil personal insurance cover.

Photocopying / Art and Craft / Insurance:

It will be necessary to photocopy many worksheets re-inforcing topics / concepts not adequately catered for in your child's school books.

An Art and Craft / Photocopying contribution to assist in the provision of materials, e.g. paint, paper, brushes, worksheets etc is collected each September.

A charge is also included for Allianz 24 hour Pupil Personal Accident Insurance . (This is a benefits policy and covers Medical and Dental expenses following an accident at school or elsewhere.)



*** Homework:**

- ◆ Homework for infants in the first term will consist mostly of oral work & some writing activities. Handouts/sheets for homework will be clearly dated - and in your child's folder/schoolbag. Homework for Infants should only take about 10/15 minutes.
- ◆ Every pupil from First Class upwards must have a homework note-book, into which they write their homework for the coming night. Upon checking the homework, the parents must then sign the notebook, stating that the work has been done. The homework notebook acts as a means of home - school communication.

Up to date phone numbers should be written in the homework notebook.

Reading - Look & Say method. Your child will be given new words. You will be asked to read these words with your child & practice them.

Jolly Phonics: (Junior pupils)

- ◆ After many months of pre-reading activities your child will be given words to blend. It is important that you reinforce the reading of these words each night with your child as this will boost your child's reading ability.
- ◆ Your child will learn to blend sounds from the Jolly Phonics programme to read words e.g. s-a-t = sat. Your child will also be introduced to tricky/sight words which aren't sounded phonetically.

Green School Initiative

The school has a long tradition of promotion of conservation in the environment. It has won numerous awards for its work in this area.

Prompted by these former successes the school entered for **Green Flag status**, and was awarded its **First Green Flag award in 2003** by An Taisce for the theme of Litter & Waste. Pupils are encouraged to recycle waste litter and to respect the internal and external school environment. The pupils operate as litter wardens on a rota basis. We often have walk to school days. Car pooling is encouraged.

We continue to foster positive attitudes in the children towards their environment

Much to our delight and after further review we were again awarded **Green Flag status** for the following projects,

Flag 2. - 2005 - theme - Energy

Flag 3. - 2007 - theme - Water

Flag 4. - 2010 - theme - Travel

Flag 5. - 2012 - theme - Biodiversity

Flag 6. - theme - Global Citizenship - Litter & Waste.

Flag 7 - theme - Global Citizenship - Energy

Flag 8-theme - Global Citizenship & Marine Environment

WE ARE THRILLED THAT IN MAY 2023

WE WERE AWARDED OUR 9TH GREEN FLAG!

theme - Global Citizenship - Travel

We are now working towards our

10TH GREEN FLAG

Global Citizenship - Food & Biodiversity

Extra-Curricular Activities



As St. Peter's is a co-educational school, special emphasis is placed on games which promote gender equality. Enjoyment is the desired outcome rather than "winning is all". Games such as basketball, rounders, tennis, volleyball, unihoc, Table tennis, Tag rugby, Gaelic football, Hurling, Camogie and soccer are enjoyed by both boys and girls. The school has won many awards at County level in the aforementioned games .

A sports day is held in late May/ early June for the pupils.

The school boasts of a Marching Band, and a choir. The Band takes part in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and won the overall award (The Jason King Memorial Cup) in the past.



Pupils are taught Tin whistle from 3rd class up with accordion lessons available to those pupils who choose to play accordion in the school band. Pupils are also given instruction on other band instruments - drums, bellyra, cymbals etc.

Music Generation Mayo.....our pupils in fourth, fifth and sixth classes were taught how to play the ukulele by a tutor from Music Generation Mayo

Our senior Pupils also participate in school quizzes (some of our teams have competed at National level) & swimming galas. Pupils attend educational tours and workshops in the Linenhall & The Country Life Museum in Turlough.

The pupils participate in our annual in-house Carol Service at Christmas.

Members of the Choir took part in "Atlantic Rhythms" with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. In recent years Senior pupils took part in workshops with the "Whistle Blast Quartet". The school choir also sang in Mayo General Hospital and Dunnes stores to raise money for charity and at our Community Mass held in the school.

Helping your Child to Learn

Reading

We would encourage you to read to your child on a daily basis and to discuss pictures, characters and story. It would be advisable to enrol your child as a member of Mayo County Council Library. Big Books will be read to your child in class and a lot of vocabulary work will take place e.g. Camille and the Sunflowers (Lawrence Anholt), Monkey Puzzle (Julia Donaldson), The Pig in the Pond (Martin Waddell).

- ◆ The highly successful Lift Off to Literacy Programme is underway in the school as is the Shared - Reading scheme. These initiatives are aimed at the pupils from Senior Infants/1st class to 3rd class. This method is explained by a letter to the parents at the commencement of the Literacy programme.

CURRICULUM

The What, Why and How of Children's Learning in Primary School is a DVD for parents about the Primary School Curriculum which can be accessed at www.ncca.ie The DVD provides information for parents about what children learn in school, why they learn with the curriculum and how they learn through different teaching methodologies.

Here in St. Peter's N.S. efforts are made to ensure children experience success regularly. There is a focus on quality learning for all. High standards are achieved in literacy and numeracy.

Aistear is a **curriculum framework** for children from **birth to six years** in Ireland. It describes the types of learning that are important for babies, toddlers and young children. Aistear shows how important play is for your child's learning and development and gives ideas for ways you and your child can play and learn together. Aistear is available in English and Irish at www.ncca.ie/earlylearning. When you visit the website, click on the Aistear logo to go to the Framework.

Incredible Years - The Incredible years[®] is a series of interlocking, evidence-based programmes for parents, children and teachers, supported by over 30 years of research. The goal is to prevent and treat young children's behaviour problems and promote their social, emotional and academic competence. The programmes are used worldwide in schools and mental health centres and have been shown to work across cultures and socio-economic groups. Our Junior Infant teachers have been trained and are using this methodology in our classrooms. For more information please visit <http://www.incredibleyears.com>

- ◆ By choosing toys carefully (jig-saws, Lego, construction toys etc) you can enhance your child's mathematical and language development and fine motor skills leading to good penmanship and fine motor co-ordination skills.

Emphasis is placed on identifying children who have learning difficulties as early as possible and putting an effective intervention programme in place, in consultation with parents.

Curriculum

The School curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education is taught and includes **Languages:- Irish & English, Maths, S.E.S.E:- History, Geography, Science. Arts Education:- Visual Arts, Music, Drama.** Physical Education, Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE) and Religious Education.

Because of the rural location of the school much use is made of the environment in the teachings of these latter named subjects. The observation and recording of natural geographical features at first hand is a skill inculcated into the pupils. The knowledge thus gained is incorporated into other subjects such as Art and Creative Writing.

Reading is very much encouraged & we use the shared/paired reading method in the school. Parents read with the child and encourage him/her. The method starts with pupils in Senior Infants class. (Tips and hints are provided by the class teacher.)

Pupils are taught to review a book in a manner appropriate to their age and reading/writing ability. Private research in the form of project work is something the pupils are taught to enjoy. Pupils are taught how to research subject areas using modern forms of technology.

*During Lá Gaeilge each class provides some form of entertainment trí ghaeilge.

*Drama groups visit the school throughout the year to put on various productions. *Pupils take part in workshops held in the school and in the general locality e.g. Linenhall Arts Centre, Museum of Country Life, Library, G.M.I.T etc.

*Swimming is an integral part of the Aquatic programme. Pupils from 3rd class to 6th class will get an opportunity to engage in a 6 week module of swimming Lessons at Castlebar swimming pool. Each child will have an opportunity to swim at least once whilst in Primary school.



School Garden

In keeping with our Green Flag the school has developed an organic school garden. An out-door polytunnel classroom has been constructed. Pupils are engaged in acquiring basic planting skills. This out door learning environment is becoming an integral part of the S.E.S.E. curriculum.

Technology

All pupils are given "hands on" experience of technology. We are very fortunate to have interactive Whiteboards in all of the classrooms throughout the school. These provide a huge choice of mediums through which we can bring the curriculum to life. It is a multi-sensory resource i.e. visual, tactile and audio.

All classrooms are also equipped with sound field systems which provide for children with any hearing difficulties as well as enhancing the learning opportunities for all pupils.

Computers and ipads are used in a cross-curricular way to give children confidence in dealing with this modern medium of communication & source of knowledge.

Staff are constantly updating their skills through in-service courses so as to equip themselves all the more to help pupils develop their skills. This creates a happy learning ethos for all.

Thanks to the Parents Association, children can continue to develop their skills at home on IXL (an on-line Maths and English programme).

Outdoor Education

As part of the Curriculum, pupils walk/run a daily mile, go on field trips, nature walks and outings throughout the year. We are fortunate to have various coaches from sporting organisations such as Gaelic, hurling, rugby, tennis, who visit the school to enhance training sessions.

* All Sports activities are catered for with both boys and girls from the senior classes competing in lunch time leagues. Our indoor sports hall means these activities can take place in all weathers. Our teams participate in inter-school competitions.



Mayo County Council also provide a tutor to facilitate cycling training and Road Safety to the senior pupils (usually 6th class) in school.

At the rear of the school we have a pitch, running track and playground.

ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG

The Active School Flag was launched by the Department of Education in 2009. It is a non-competitive initiative which highlights the importance of P.E., physical activity and sport in schools & communities. It recognises schools that provide quality P.E., co-curricular physical activity and sports programmes for their pupils.

In the programme the school endeavours to provide Physical Activity in all of the following areas:- Competitive/Non Competitive - Team/Individual - Contact/Non Contact, which are inclusive and differentiated.

In **2011** we were awarded our **First Active Flag** and in March of that year the **Minister for Tourism & Sport Michael Ring** raised the schools first Active School Flag. He also planted a tree and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the day.