

Scoil Bhríde Four Mile House

School Booklet



(A guide for Parents/Guardians)



**Scoil Bhríde
Four Mile House
Roscommon
F42WF25
Tel: 090 66 29570**

*Email: office@scoilbhridefmh.ie
Roll No: 19815D RCN: 20134044*

Dear Parent(s)

Your child's school days are an important part of their life. We want to ensure that their learning takes place in a stimulating, supportive, secure and happy environment. We aim to foster values of respect, honesty, courtesy, responsibility, tolerance and consideration of others.

We hope each pupil can live as a child and we aim to equip them to live a responsible life as an adult.

We recognise you, the parents, as the primary and most important educators of your child. We encourage communication and parental involvement based on mutual trust and understanding.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shane O'Donnell'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Shane O' Donnell, Principal

Bernie Kearney, Chairperson, Board of Management

Mission Statement

The Board of Management and staff of Scoil Bhríde will strive at all times to promote the best possible learning environment for both teacher and pupil.

Above all, we aim to promote an environment which will foster values of respect, honesty, courtesy, responsibility, tolerance and consideration of others.

We cherish each child as an individual and we strive to develop their spiritual, intellectual, artistic, physical, emotional and social potential. A close relationship between parents and school will be encouraged. We encourage communication and parental involvement, based on mutual trust and understanding.

Our School

Scoil Bhríde, Fourmilehouse is a Catholic School, under the patronage of the Bishop of Elphin, Kevin Doran. The school was built in 1987 and has four mainstream teachers, two special education teachers, two special needs assistants and a secretary. The playground consists of a large tarmac area at the front and rear of the school, a large playing field on the western side and a 25m x 40m astro pitch. The area at the back is marked for basketball. The school has a shelter just inside the gates and at the rear of the shelter is a handball alley.

There is an abundance of play areas to suit all ages. As the school is situated between the Church and the Community Centre, we avail of both for Religious and Sporting activities respectively.

Administration Enrolment

All children who have reached the age of four on September 1st of the year of enrolment, are welcome in Scoil Bhríde. Parents wishing to enrol their children in the school must register on the enrolment days which are usually held in February. These enrolment days will be advertised in the local paper,

parish newsletter, flyer in the community centre, community shop, the church and the playschool and by means of a letter to existing parents.

An open evening will then be held in June where the new pupils will meet their teacher, their new classmates and a buddy from the senior classes who will look after them in the yard for the first few months.

Each parent will receive a copy of the School Booklet together with relevant policies.

Where children have 'Special Needs', the services of a special needs assistant and/or a special education teacher may be required. Parents/Guardians must realise that the school will only be granted these services after the child has undergone Psychological Assessment and that report states that the child requires such help.

Application Procedures

Application forms for admission to Scoil Bhríde are available in the school on enrolment days. The following information is required:

- Pupil's name, address, eircode and date of birth
- Pupil's PPSN and nationality
- Religion, cultural background and language spoken at home
- Names and addresses of parents/guardians
- Occupation of parents/guardians
- Work/home contact numbers
- Contact number in case of emergency
- Details of medical conditions/phobias/ allergies
- Details of medication
- Previous school attended (if applicable)
- Registration form must be accompanied by a copy of the child's birth certificate.

All decisions in relation to application for enrolment are made by the Board of Management in accordance with school policy. A copy of the Admissions policy will be issued to each new parent on request.

Parents please note the following:

Criteria for enrolment

Children will be enrolled on application provided there is space available. (Department of Education and Skills guidelines in relation to class size or staffing provisions)

- Children must be at least 4 years of age on 1st September.
- Living in parish or traditional catchment area.
- Siblings already in school.
- Children of staff working in school.
- Parents from parish.
- Application date on/before February/March of year of enrolment.

Catholic Ethos

Scoil Bhríde is a Roman Catholic School (established in connection with the Minister for Education and Skills) which aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people.

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic school provides Religious Education for all pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith.

[This ethos has been drawn up by the C.P.S.M.A., I.N.T.O., D.E.S. and N.P.C.]

Although Scoil Bhríde is a Catholic school we welcome children of other faiths or none.

Religious Studies

The Religion Programme Grow in Love is followed in all classes in Scoil Bhríde and pupils are prepared for the Sacraments of:

First Penance
First Communion
Confirmation

Children are given the opportunity of serving Mass and taking part in the choir.

Information Technology

All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and teachers' computers. All classrooms are connected to broadband and children will have limited access to the Internet. We also have 15 laptops and 7 iPads for childrens' use. Please read and sign the "Internet Acceptable Use Policy".

Resources

Scoil Bhríde depends on the grants and teachers' resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills and it operates within the regulations laid down by them. All school policies must have regard to the resources and funding available.

Scoil Bhríde Parents' Association also fundraise on an annual basis to provide extra resources for our school.

Teaching Staff

Shane O' Donnell – Principal
Caroline Cusack – Class Teacher
Mar Kelly – Special Education Teacher
Mary King – Assistant Principal 2, Special Education Teacher
Eimear Brehony – Deputy Principal
Tara Taylor – Class Teacher

Special Needs Assistants

Helena King
Eithne Merriman

Ancillary Staff

Michelle Beirne – Secretary
Breege Cassidy – Cleaner
Martin Kelly - Caretaker

School Board of Management

Bernie Kearney	- Chairperson & Patron's Nominee
Shane O' Donnell	- Principal & Secretary
Seamus Talbot	- Treasurer and Patron's Nominee
Eimear Brehony	- Teachers' Nominee
Caroline Tully	- Parents' Nominee
Jimmy O' Connor	- Parents' Nominee
Martina Brennan	- Community Nominee
To be filled	- Community Nominee

Parents' Association

Tim Bracken	- Chairperson
Caitriona Farrell	- Secretary
Caroline Lucas	- Treasurer

The Curriculum

As stipulated in the Department of Education and Skills School Curriculum the following subjects are taught here in Scoil Bhríde:

- Gaelige
- English
- Mathematics
- S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal and Health Education)
- P.E. (Physical Education)
- S.E.S.E. (History, Geography, Science and Environmental Studies)
- Arts (Music, Drama, Visual Arts)

Extra-Curricular Activities

Pupils in Scoil Bhríde take part in Gaelic football, basketball, soccer and handball. We take part in inter schools leagues in Gaelic football, soccer and handball. Swimming classes for 1st to 6th classes are organised during the school year.

Pupils also take part in the choir and in some of the local Church services.

Pupils also participate in:

- Local Quiz Competitions
- Art Competitions
- Eason Spelling Bee Competition
- Essay Competitions

A Christmas Concert is held every four years. On years when there is no concert the pupils participate in a Carol Service and Nativity Play.

Home School Links

As partners in education, we believe that home/school contact and co-operation is essential.

Parent/Teacher meetings take place annually, usually in the first school term, when parents can discuss their children's progress with the class teacher and any concerns can be addressed.

Reports are sent home at the end of each school year.

For organisational reasons, an appointment is recommended if you wish to meet with a teacher or the school Principal. It is not practical to speak to a teacher on the telephone during school hours, except in a matter of urgency. Our secretary, Michelle, works Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm and can be contacted on the school number – 090 6629570 on any of these days. On Tuesdays you may leave a message on the phone, however please don't assume that the message will be heard immediately as I can't always check the phone due to teaching duties, meetings, yard duty etc.

Please inform your child's teacher of any health or personal problems or family circumstances which arise that might affect their school life.

Internet Safety

As part of Scoil Bhríde's education programme pupils are offered supervised access to a large array of online resources that enhance their learning experience.

Although the Scoil Bhríde Internet Service is protected by an appropriate screening programme, access to the internet requires responsibility on the part of the user and the school, so, with this in mind, the school has devised an Acceptable Use Policy (a copy of this policy will be given to parents when enrolling a child). This should be read by parents, signed (provided that the parent is satisfied with the policy) and returned to the school.

If parents have any concerns about the use of the internet in school please feel free to contact the class teacher or the principal.

Book Rental

We operate a book rental scheme in Scoil Bhríde.

Booklists will be issued to parents in June and parents will be notified if their children's books are available on the book rental scheme. Children must supply their own copies, Workbooks, Tables Book, Spelling Book, Atlas and Dictionaries.

- Books must be covered and maintained in a tidy condition.
- If a child loses or damages a book, they must replace that book.
- Books must be "tidied up" before being returned in June.

Equality Issues

Our aims are:

- To enable each student to achieve their potential as a human being regardless of their gender.
- To promote an environment which will foster the growth and development of self – esteem in all pupils in our care.
- To contribute to the breaking down of stereotypes and the opening up of opportunities for all pupils
- To develop a whole school approach towards gender equality in the curriculum.
- To ensure that all children, regardless of ability, will achieve their full potential.

Scoil Bhríde Healthy Eating Policy

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch to school each day.

We would suggest a piece of fruit for small break (this may need to be peeled).

Lunchtime suggestions:

Bread – brown, white, wholemeal, rolls, scones, pitta bread – with fillings eg. Ham, cheese, spreads, tuna, egg, salad.

Plastic beakers/flasks for drinks (cartons cannot be re-sealed if opened).

Sweets, crisps and chewing gum are not allowed.

If your child has any food allergies it is important that the class teacher and the Principal are informed.

School Hours

Junior/Senior Infants:	9:30am – 2:10pm
All other classes:	9:30am – 3:10pm.
Break:	11:05am – 11:15am
Lunch:	12:45pm – 1:15pm.

Please note:

Pupils from Junior and Senior Infants must be collected at 2:10pm.

Dress Code

The Scoil Bhríde school uniform consists of the following:

Boys: Grey pants, blue shirt, royal blue jumper.

Girls: Grey pinafore/skirt or pants, blue shirt, royal blue jumper or cardigan.

P.E.: Navy tracksuits (no labels please), blue polo shirt.

Sturdy black shoes preferred with uniform. Runners to be worn with tracksuit.

Uniforms must be worn to school at all times. If, for any reason, a child is coming to school without his/her uniform, the parent/guardian should send a note of explanation to the class teacher.

Absences

In accordance with the Child and Family Act, 2013 every absence must be explained in writing by the parent/guardian. The letter should indicate if the absence is/was due to sickness, holiday, family occasion, bereavement etc.

As required by the Act, when a child misses 20 days from school in one year or where a child's attendance gives rise for concern, the school is obliged to notify Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

If the board is satisfied with the reason for the absence e.g. sickness, they will not take any action but, if not, you may be visited by the Educational Welfare Officer. The officer will work with you and take full account of the circumstances of the child and the family before deciding what further action is necessary to ensure that the child receives his/her entitlement to an education.

*A good education helps young people
to obtain secure employment and
develop into mature and
responsible citizens.*

Homework

- ❖ The purpose of homework is to reinforce work done in school
- ❖ Pupils should be able to do homework with a minimum of help
- ❖ While regular homework is not given at weekends, there may be times when a child may have to complete work given during the week
- ❖ Oral homework – reading, spellings etc. should get priority.

Time guidelines:

Infants (if given)	10 – 20 minutes
1 st / 2 nd classes	30 minutes approx.
3 rd / 4 th classes	45 minutes approx.
5 th / 6 th classes	50 – 60 mins approx.

Parents should check that homework is completed and sign journal. Oral homework should not be overlooked – reading, tables, prayers etc.

Homework difficulties:

Difficulties may arise when:

- ❖ Child has not understood the work
- ❖ Child is not concentrating
- ❖ Work is beyond the child's ability
- ❖ Child has poor organisational skills
- ❖ Distractions in the work area.

If your child is experiencing difficulties with their homework please let the class teacher know.

Traffic Plan for Scoil Bhríde

1. School bus to park in the four parking spaces adjacent to the front of the Church.
2. Children using the bus will use the footpath at gable of the church when walking to and from the school.
3. **No parking** at two spaces beside green area.
4. **All** cars are to use the main church car-park.
5. Use designated parking rather than dropping children off on the road.
6. One way system **must** be strictly adhered to.
7. All parents who have children in **Junior/Senior infants** and **1st and 2nd** class **must** walk their child to and from the main school gate.
8. No parking along stone wall to the front of the school.
9. Only cars belonging to **teachers/staff** are allowed to park in spaces which are adjacent to the front of the school.
10. Only children from playschool will enter the school via teachers' entrance.
11. No cars are to drive up to the main school gates.

