



Welcome Pack

2020 – 2021 School Year



Faughart Community National School

- Faughart, Dundalk, Co Louth, A91 D897
- www.faughartcns.ie
- 042 93 71931
- faughartcns@lmetb.ie

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Faughart Community National School (CNS), we will endeavour to make your child's time here a very special experience. We strive to create a happy learning environment and it is our goal that the year ahead will be an enjoyable and successful one with memorable moments of fun and learning for your child.

We hope that this booklet will help to prepare you and your child by offering some information and useful tips. *Any change in procedures, due to Covid19 restrictions, will be communicated to parents as soon as guidelines are available.*

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils on Thursday 27th August at 8:50 a.m.

Jacqui McCusker
Principal

The Vision and Values of Faughart CNS

Teachers, pupils and parents collaborated in 2018-2019 to establish our vision and core values as follows:

- **We care about our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.**

The promotion of a caring and positive school environment, where every pupil, their welfare, wellbeing and health is a priority in Faughart CNS. The uniqueness of each child is celebrated, individual needs identified and support personalised.

- **We uphold high expectations for effort and performance in our learning and develop skills for the 21st century.**

Pupils are encouraged to have high expectations for effort and performance in their learning and work diligently and creatively to learn knowledge and skills to prepare them for a future of life-long learning.

- **We are active members of our local and global communities.**

Faughart CNS fosters a positive school culture, where pupils have positive and respectful interactions with their teachers and peers. Pupils are active and valued members of our school community.

- **We show respect and act responsibly.**

Pupils are nurtured to have respect for themselves and others, and be responsible for their behaviour and their learning.



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Preparation for School (Junior Infants)

Parents can do a lot to help their child prepare for Junior Infants in school and this preparation should begin some months before the child starts school and should be carried out gradually.

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Button and unbutton their coat and hang it up.
- Fasten/tie their own shoes—Velcro fasteners are very handy!
- Use the toilet without help, flush the toilet and wash their hands without having to be told.
- Share toys with others and 'take turns'.
- Tidy up and put away toys.
- Use a tissue when necessary.
- Open and close their lunch box themselves.

In the morning time children congregate in the school hall from 8:35 a.m. where the teacher will collect them each morning at 8.50 a.m and bring them to the classroom. **For the first day children can go straight to their classroom when they arrive at school. (These procedures may change due to Covid19 restrictions.)**

Junior Infant children will go home at 12.00 p.m. for the first week and will finish at 1:30 p.m. from 7th of September 2020.

Casually talk about school with your child as a happy place where there will be a big welcome and they will meet lots of new friends.

Please remember to have **a name label** on everything that your child owns.

When you arrive in the classroom be as casual as you can. Your child will meet their teacher, will be shown to their place and given an activity to do. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and leave without delay. The teacher will bring the children out to their parents at home time.



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Cost for 2020-2021

The direct costs from parents for 2020-2021 is **€90** per pupil. The breakdown is as follows:

● <i>All workbooks, school diary, book rental</i>	€50
● <i>All Copies and stationery</i>	€6.50
● <i>Pupil insurance (ETB 24 Hour)</i>	€8.50
● <i>All Art supplies</i>	€10
● <i>Printing and photocopying</i>	€10
● <i>Texts to parents & Aladdin School App</i>	€5

The school will purchase the above for all children. As a cashless school, all payments must go through the Way2Pay system. Information on using the system is enclosed. **Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are not included and will be extra as events arise throughout the year**

Uniform

The school uniform consists of:

- Navy sweatshirt with new school logo
- Navy jogpants/pinafore with navy tights/socks
- Light blue poloshirt
- McEvoy's Department Store in Dundalk supply the navy sweatshirt with the embroidered school logo.

Lunch

Children will have a break at 10.30am to 10.40am and lunch from 12.00 -12.30pm. As a health promoting school we will ask you to promote a healthy lunch right from the start. We encourage fruit at break time and healthy sandwiches at lunchtime. **Water is desired as a drink.**

Please do not give your child bars, biscuits, lollipops, fizzy or sweetened drinks or crisps for lunch.

Also, chewing gum is not allowed at school. Our healthy eating policy is available on our school website.



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Attendance

We recognise the positive impact high attendance has on student engagement and on teaching and learning. Our statement of strategy for school attendance is published on our school website and school attendance information for parents published by TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, is included.

Early collection: When it is absolutely necessary for your child to leave school early, please send in a note in the homework diary. You must also sign your child out in the office.

Absent Note: In the event of your child being absent for illness or any other reason, the class teacher should be informed by filling out the absence note at the back of your child's homework diary on return to school or through the school Aladdin Connect App. Reasons for all absences must be documented and submitted to the Education Welfare Board if required.

School Calendar

Our calendar for the school year 2020-2021 is included in this booklet to help you plan events, appointments and holidays throughout the school year that do not interfere with your child's learning. Our motto for attendance and punctuality in our school is **"Every Lesson Counts"**.

We must work in partnership to provide the best education for our children, and we believe that consistent attendance is necessary to facilitate the best education of your child.

Home-School Communication

We value good home-school communication.

- Please keep up to date on events and activities in our school by checking our website regularly.
- We will also share some information with parents using the School Aladdin Connect App.
- It is important that you register for the school Aladdin Connect App to keep up to date.
- Parent-teacher meetings are held once a year and it is important that you attend these to keep in touch with your child's progress in school.

If you feel you wish to speak to your child's teacher at any other stage during the year, please make an appointment with the teacher. Our communication policy is available on the school website.



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Parents' Association

We have a very active and supportive Parent Association and we would encourage all current and new parents to please attend Parent Association meetings. You will have the opportunity to support your child's education and help develop our school policies.

School Policies Available on the Website

- Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- Admission Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Communication Policy
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Attendance Strategy
- SPHE Plan (including plan for the Stay Safe Programme)
- Digital Learning Plan
- School Improvement Plan (School Self-Evaluation)
- Code of Behaviour
- Relationship and Sexuality Education Policy
- Health and Safety Statement
- Physical Education Policy

Policies currently under review in Faughart Community National School

- Code of Behaviour
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Homework Policy





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Call us on: 01-8041269

Our aim is to become a cashless school over time and to this end we are introducing Way2Pay, Ireland's fastest growing Parental Payment System. While Way2Pay is designed to help schools manage, receipt, track and audit school money, it also provides a comprehensive and wonderful flexible system for parents. Parents can enjoy the ease of paying by text, and/or an online dashboard with lots of information, receipt, history etc. In fact parents have three payment options.

PAY ONLINE ON WWW.WAY2PAY.ORG

Login and view all activities and bills from your child's school. In fact with the Way2Pay dashboard you can see all activities for all your children's schools, payment history, upcoming bills, last three payments, quickly contact school and Way2Pay. You can store your card details, pay by installments, upload credit and make financial plans.

See your Way2Pay family dashboard: click www.way2pay.org for your username AND password enter your mobile phone number in 35387xxxxxx format. You will be asked to set your own password at this point. Note: Click on Plus Icon (+) to add payment amount.

PAY BY TEXT MESSAGE

Your school will send you payment requests by SMS. You simply click on the link on the SMS to pay in three easy clicks.

Note: Click on Plus Icon (+) to add payment amount. Paying by text: you will be asked a security question before seeing your bills.

IF YOU FORGET YOUR PASSWORD

Simply go to Way2Pay.org, enter your phone number and click to receive a text message with a new link. This enables you to pay any outstanding bills.

Note: Click on Plus Icon (+) to add payment amount. Paying by text: you will be asked a security question before seeing your bills.

Way2Pay offers support directly to parents so if you are having any difficulty using any of the options above please get in touch directly with their help desk on **01-8041269** during office hours or email support@way2pay.ie. We thank you for using Way2Pay and help our school in our aim to go cashless.



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Every child aged between 6 and 16 must receive an education.

If you are a parent or guardian* of a child aged between 6 and 16 this leaflet outlines the special role you play in ensuring that your child doesn't miss out on his or her education.

It also gives you information about the Child and Family Agency which supports regular school attendance and the education of children and young people through Educational Welfare Officers.

The job of the Child and Family Agency is to support families and make sure that every child receives an education as required by law. Almost all children do this by attending school.

* Guardian – a person who has the legal authority and duty to take care of a child or minor

Your child has a right to an education.

A good education, combined with loving care and encouragement, will give your child a great start in life.



Top Tips from parents!

- ✓ *"Get your child to bed in good time on school days and Sunday nights. Plenty of sleep and rest will help a child stay alert."*
- ✓ *"Remember to set the alarm clock in good time so that you can get your child to school on time."*
- ✓ *"Help your child pack his or her schoolbag and prepare your child's lunch the night before so you and your child have more time to get ready in the morning."*

"Having a good education means I will be more likely to learn more, develop skills and talents, make and keep friends, have more confidence, do better at exams, avoid getting involved in crime, have a wider choice of job options when I start working..."

What you must do if your child cannot be at school

You must tell the school that your child cannot attend and say why. The school will tell you how to give them this information – usually, the school will ask for a note.

Very often, there will be good reasons for a child not being in school and these will be taken into account if they are explained to the school.

What the school must do if your child misses a lot of school

The school must tell us, if your child has missed 20 days or more in the school year or if it is concerned that your child is missing too much school.

What we must do if your child misses a lot of school

If a school tells us that your child is missing too much school, an Educational Welfare Officer of the Child and Family Agency may visit you to see how we can help to make sure that your child attends school more often.

Protecting your child's right to an education

We will help you in whatever way we can to ensure your child gets an education. However, you can be taken to court and fined or imprisoned if you do not co-operate with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Legal action will be taken in exceptional cases if it is the only way a child's right to an education can be safeguarded.

How you can help your child to attend school regularly

- Make education important in your home and let your child know it is not okay to miss school.
- Listen to your child. Be interested in his or her news about school and ask about what he or she is doing.
- Help your child to be proud of a good attendance record.
- Build your child's confidence by praising him or her when he or she does well.
- Read letters and reports from the school and know the school rules.
- Go to school meetings and get to know the teacher, staff and your child's friends.
- Don't take family holidays during school term.
- Be alert for reasons why your child may not want to go to school. If your child finds school work hard, talk to the school right away.
- Encourage your child not to take on a part-time job during school term. A tired teenager will not be able to keep up at school.

Home Education and Private Schools

Under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 you have a right to educate your child outside of a recognised school, for example, in a private school or in your home.

If you decide to do this you must apply to register your child with the Child and Family Agency who will then carry out an assessment of the education being provided. For more information contact us on **(01) 873 8700**.

**What
to do if
you need
support**

Contact the Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency by email at ewsinfo@tusla.ie or check out contact details of your local office on www.tusla.ie.



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