

St. Attracta's Senior School

Meadowbrook, Dundrum, Dublin 16

Scoil Shinsireach Naomh Athracht

Cluain Ghlaise, Dún Droma, Áth Cliath 16

EOLAS ~~~ INFORMATION



~ Ar aghaidh le chéile ~



Phone: 01 - 2951627

Fax: 01 - 2960617

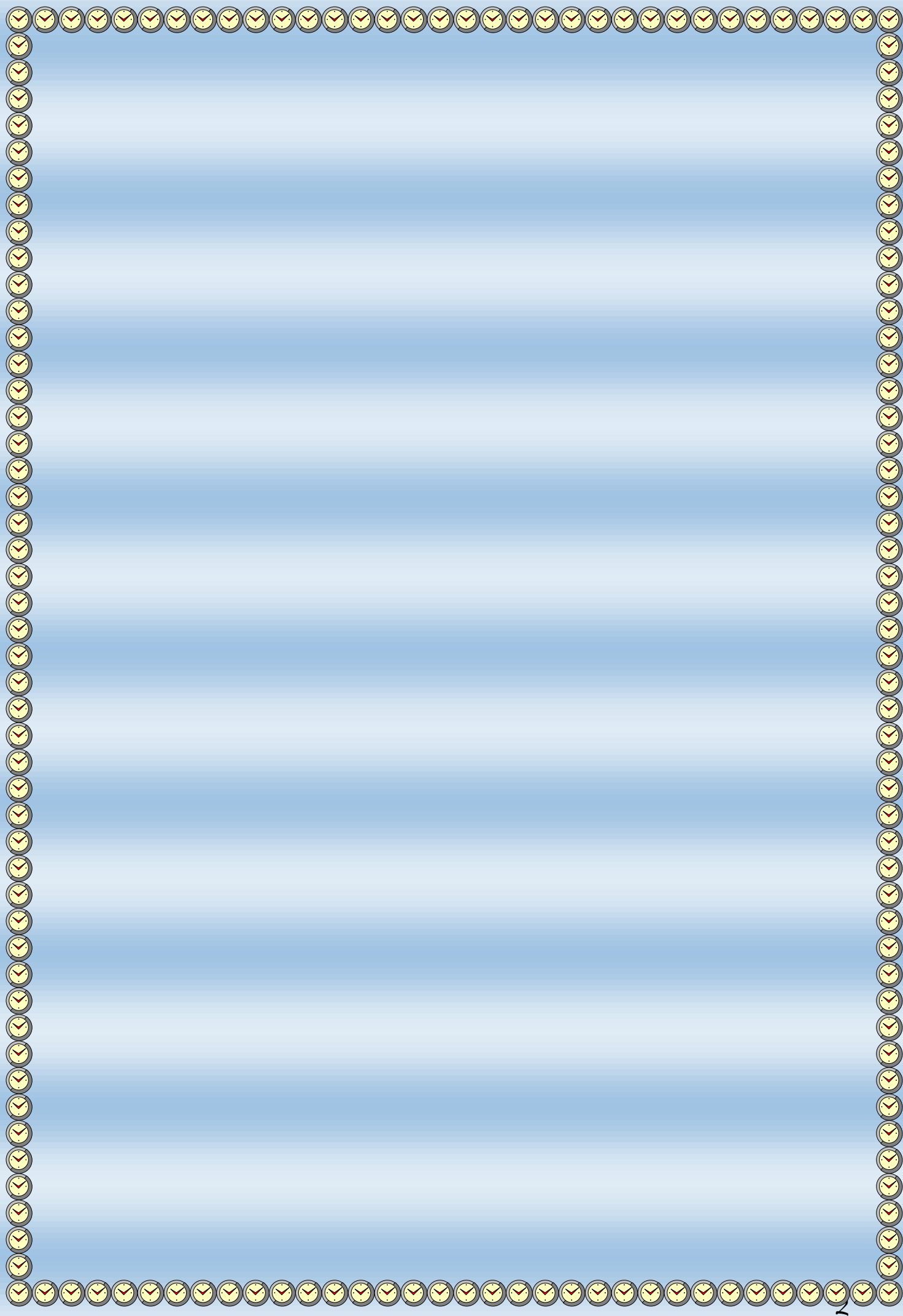
Uimhir Rolla: 19716B

Email: oifigstattracta@gmail.com or office@sasns.ie

Website: www.sasns.ie

Principal: Muireann Máirtín

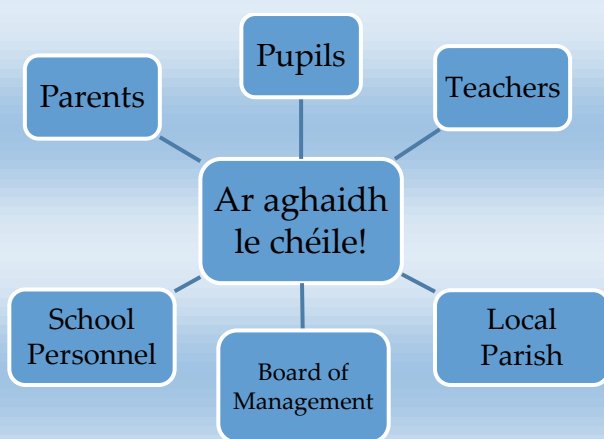
Application forms are available on request from the school.



INTRODUCTION:

St. Attracta's Senior School is situated in the foothills of the Dublin mountains. It is a parish school which provides a child centred education for girls and boys from 3rd to 6th class. It is guided in all its work by an ethos of mutual respect for one another in a caring, Catholic and Christian community. Each person is encouraged to work diligently and to use his/her talents for the benefit of the entire school community.

The school motto **Ar aghaidh le chéile** sums up the spirit of co-operation that exists among pupils, teachers, parents, management and the local community, who all play an active part in the life of the school. Attached to and inspired by St. Attracta's Oratory, the school shares close links with the parish of Meadowbrook and with the local community. All members of the school community work together to help the children achieve their full potential – no matter what that might be.



Our committed staff, dedicated parents, enthusiastic pupils and supportive school environment help to make St Attracta's Senior National School one of the area's most sought-after schools. As our children prepare for the future, they are ably supported by a team of teachers who have a vast range of experiences, talents and special interests. They work as a team to prepare, plan and deliver a high quality education to our pupils. Ongoing assessment and discussion of children's progress is integral to how we work.

In 2015, we were delighted when the Department of Education & Skills carried out a Whole School Evaluation of teaching & learning in our school. See the full report on their website www.education.ie.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Attracta's Senior National School is a Catholic co-educational primary school which provides a happy, caring and secure learning environment in which the individual student is enabled to achieve his/her full potential.

St. Attracta's Senior National School promotes excellence in teaching and learning. The school community that we create is welcoming, safe, respectful and inclusive of all its members. All aspects of the child - academic, spiritual, moral and cultural - are cherished.

ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

- + Twelve regular classrooms with self-contained toilets and cloakroom facilities.
- + 100 square metre Curriculum Room for music, drama, educational workshops, circle time, cookery, nature talks and assemblies.
- + Modern networked school and ICT Lab containing 18 PCs, tablets, server, colour printers and laptops for pupils with special needs.
- + PC and interactive whiteboards in all classrooms. WiFi and supervised filtered internet access applies throughout the school.
- + Dedicated school library with 6500 fiction books and a wide selection of non-fiction books for project work and general knowledge. Also class libraries, each with 300 books.
- + Four learning support rooms catering for the needs of individual pupils in literacy, numeracy, second language teaching and special needs.
- + Hall and PE equipment room, facilitating a wide range of sporting and arts activities.
- + Teachers' resource library including a wide range of educational equipment and materials.
- + School siopa open all year round supplying school uniforms and stationery to pupils.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ST. ATTRACTA'S SENIOR SCHOOL - CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, the Board of Management of **St. Attracta's Senior National School** has agreed the following child protection policy:

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of this overall child protection policy.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Muireann Máirtín**, Principal.
The Deputy DLP is **Clare Neville**, Deputy Principal.

In its policies, practices and activities, **St. Attracta's Senior National School** will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. We will recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;

- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

The following school policies, guidelines, practices and activities are particularly relevant to child protection: Code of Good Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Supervision of Pupils, School Tours & Visits, Swimming Guidelines, Visitors & Visiting Teachers, Children Leaving School Early, Accidents and Record Keeping.

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents' Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management each year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location:

St. Attracta's Senior National School is situated in the small parish of Meadowbrook, close to Dundrum, Ballinteer, Churchtown, Marlay and Rathfarnham. It was established in 1980.

Local facilities include DLR Meadowbrook Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool, St. John's G.A.A. Club, Airfield House, Dundrum Athletic & Broadford Rovers Football Clubs, Marlay Park and St. Enda's Park.

Staff:

21 teachers (including principal) cater for classroom teaching and supplementary teaching for English and Maths, resource hours for pupils with special needs and teaching English as an additional language.

School Hours:

From 8.50a.m.~ 2.30p.m.

Break time: 10.30 ~ 10.40a.m.

Lunch time: 12.30 ~ 1.00p.m.

The Board of Management can accept no responsibility for children on the school premises before 8.50 a.m. and after 2.30 p.m.

School Calendar

A calendar for the year based on the Standardised School Year set down by the Department of Education & Science is issued to all parents in June each year. Classes are dismissed at 12.00 noon on days on which Christmas, Easter and summer holidays commence. Parents are informed of other school closures as soon as the school receives notice of same.

Access:

Bus Routes 14, 75, 116, 161

3 minutes drive from Luas & Dundrum Town Centre

School History:

St. Attracta's Senior School was established in 1980 and a brief historical overview is given at the back of this booklet.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Regular uniform:

Navy trousers for boys
Navy skirt/pinafore for girls
Navy **v-neck** jumper/cardigan
Sky blue shirt/blouse
School tie
Navy/black/white socks/tights
Black shoes (not black runners)

PE/Swimming days:

School track-suit
Sky blue polo shirt
Runners
School shorts for hot weather (optional)

The school uniform is the most distinctive way of identifying the pupils in our school and so we ask that children wear the correct uniform at all times and wear it neatly.

We operate a shop for the storage, sale and distribution of uniforms. New school uniforms and tracksuits are sold during the month of May and June the shop is open daily from 9.00 ~ 9.30a.m. throughout the year. We encourage all pupils to avail of the opportunity to buy the school tie, school knitwear, tracksuits and shorts with crest can only be bought through the school as this encourages uniformity of dress.

Advertising logos, t-shirts and football jerseys are not allowed under any circumstances. Children will not be allowed to do PE unless they are suitably dressed. Neat dress is essential and in the interests of hygiene and safety, we ask pupils to tie back long hair, to keep jewellery to a minimum (no dangly ear-rings).

CURRICULUM

The school curriculum is that laid down by the Department of Education & Science. Since the year 2000, we implement the Revised Curriculum designed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

1 Language

- Gaeilge
- English



2 Mathematics

3 Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE)

- History
- Geography
- Science
- Environmental Education



4 Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) including RSE & Stay Safe



5 Arts Education

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Drama



6 Physical Education



7 Information and Communication Technology



8 Religious Education

- The school follows the religious programme prescribed by the Education Secretariat of the Archdiocese of Dublin, supplemented by a wide range of resources from the Association of Catholic Teachers (ACT).
- Faith development permeates the school day and in 6th class, pupils receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

Our school engages in self-evaluation ~ a collaborative, reflective process of internal school review, which requires us to gather evidence about teaching and learning practices, to analyse the evidence and to reflect on the findings in order to reach conclusions and to make judgements about our strengths and weaknesses. Over the past number of years, we have introduced new whole school literacy and numeracy projects. We examine our practices in other curricular areas also and we constantly review our work and our way of doing things. This is in the best interests of the pupils and it gives us an opportunity to enhance both teaching and learning. As a result of our school self-evaluation process we produce an annual school improvement plan, drawn up in consultation with the education partners.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- + We have been awarded **Green School Status** by An Taisce and we are the proud possessors of six green flags for Litter & Waste, Water, Travel, Energy, Climate Change and Biodiversity. Our next challenge is to secure a flag for Global Citizenship.
- + Over the past nine years, we have been the recipients of **Science & Maths Excellence** Awards from DPSM (Discover Primary Science and Maths) which is the national programme to foster interest in science, technology engineering and maths among children in primary schools.
- + Under a new scheme aimed at primary schools where the language of instruction is English, we will be one of the first schools in Ireland to receive a **Gaelbhhratach**, an award given to schools to indicate achievement in the use of Irish as a living language by staff and children. Beimid ar cheann de na céad scoileanna a fuair Gaelbhhratach..
- + Every two years we participate in the **National Children's Choir**, a school-based choral experience for school children. Pupils from 4th and 5th class learn a repertoire of songs that challenges the pupils to perform a broad programme from Bach to the Beatles. The choir enables young people to experience the sheer joy of music and song-singing.
- + In 2016, we achieved **Digital School of Distinction Status** in recognition of the progress we have made in the area of technology and E-learning.
- + We actively play **GAA Football, Hurling and Camogie** and we have reached and won hurling and football finals in Croke Park in recent years. We have won interschool competitions in Olympic Handball and Basketball. The children also participate in Athletics and Rugby. All pupils take swimming lessons at their own level of ability.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- Active School Status
- Anti-Bullying Awareness Week
- Artistic & Cultural Events
- Bible Explorer in Rang 5
- Book Week & Book Fairs
- Buddy Reading
- Cake Sales & Sponsored Spells
- Carol Service
- Catholic Schools' Week
- Charity Fundraisers
- Children's Sunday Masses
- Choirs – Córfhéile & National Children's Choir
- Christmas Carol Service
- Circle Time
- Coffee Morning for Rang 3 Parents
- Confirmation in 6th Class
- Credit Union Membership
- Credit Union Table Quiz
- Cumann na mBunscoil; GAA & Athletics
- DLR Cycling Scheme in Rang 6
- Digital School of Distinction Status
- Discover Primary Science & Maths
- Dundrum Credit Union Savings Scheme
- Educational Tours
- Engineers' Week
- Etwinning Projects
- French in Rang 6
- GAA Coaching
- Gaeilge Gach Lá
- Gaelbhratch
- Green Schools Project & Environmental Awareness
- Hallelujah Choir
- Handwriting Competition ~ INTO/EBS
- Healthy Eating Programme

- Information Evening for Parents of New Pupils
- Internet Safety Talks
- Library & Museum Visits
- Maths Masters Table Quiz – 6th Class Inter-Schools Competition
- Music Workshops
- National Children's Choir
- National Tree Week
- No Uniform Days
- Open Day/Evening
- OWLS Programme
- Paired Reading
- Raidió Gach Lá
- Project Work
- Rugby Coaching
- Safety Week
- Santry Sports (Athletics)
- School Tours & Excursions
- Science Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Seasonal Liturgies
- Skipathon
- Specialised Science Module for Sixth Class
- Spelling Bee
- Sport for All Day
- Sporting Leagues & Blitzes
- School Sport Days
- Student Council
- Sunday Children's Masses
- Sunflower Days
- Swimming
- Table Quizzes
- Teams & Athletics
- Trips to Marlay Park, St. Enda's Park & Airfield
- Whole School Assemblies
- World Book Day

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

St. Attracta's Senior School offers a wide range of school-based and excursion-based activities aimed at the many interests of our pupils. Activities vary from year to year but the general areas catered for are music, sports, art, languages and computers. As children enter the Senior School, we encourage them to become involved in at least after school activity, as the social aspect of this involvement is very good for them.

A full time-table of extra-curricular activities is issued at the beginning of each year. The choice of extra-curricular activities varies from year to year depending on personnel.

- Art & Craft
- Basketball
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Club Gaeilge
- Computer Club
- Cookery
- Dance
- Drama
- Dynamite Faith Programme
- French
- Guitar
- GAA: Football, Hurling & Camogie
- Guitar
- Homework Club
- Hurling
- Keyboard
- Olympic Handball
- Recorder
- Science
- Sunday Choir



YOUR CHILD IN OUR CARE

We believe that the education of your child is a partnership between parents and teachers. It is essential that there is trust between us and care and love for the child. Within this atmosphere children will have the chance to develop into caring and responsible members of society. The uniqueness of each child is celebrated and the curriculum seeks to develop each child's potential to the full. We are proud of our truly child-centred education milieu.

We strive for excellence and we have high expectations of our pupils. We do our best to nurture a love of learning in the children. We also expect them to look out for and support one another and to show kindness in their dealings with everybody they meet.

We welcome parents into the school and we encourage parents to take an active interest in the education of their children at all times. We try to ensure that home and school work together to achieve the best all round education for every child. The class teacher, who knows your child well, is responsible for his/her care. If parents have any concern, however minor, they can arrange to speak to the teacher. Equally if the teacher has concerns he/she will make an appointment to speak to you.

HOME SCHOOL LIAISON

As our children are young, messages from school are usually communicated to parents in writing. A monthly newsletter keeps parents informed of school events and activities. The homework journal may be used by both parents and teachers for day to day issues pertaining to their own child. The school website – www.sasns.ie – also keeps parents informed of what is happening in school.

In November each year individual Parent-Teacher meetings are arranged and at the end of the school year a written report outlining pupil progress is posted home to parents. These reports include standardized test results in English and in Maths which are administered in May each year.

In June, the holiday list for the following academic year is sent home. We do our best to advise parents of forthcoming school events in good time and of other closures, such as Confirmation Day or Election Days as soon as we ourselves are advised.

ILLNESSES & ABSENCES

If your child is ill whilst at school or has an accident we will do everything we can to comfort him/her. However, home is always the best place when a child is ill, therefore it is essential that we have up to date home and work telephone numbers and the phone numbers of other designated contact persons in the event of you being unreachable.

In accordance with the Education Welfare Act, when a child returns to school following an absence, a letter explaining the reason and dates of the absence must accompany him/her. Under the act the school is obliged to report to the Education Welfare officer the names of all children who have missed in excess of 20 days in any given year.

Parents should not take children on holiday during term time, as it is very disruptive to your child settling into school and progressing their learning.

LEARNING SUPPORT & SPECIAL NEEDS

St. Attracta's Senior School differentiates for all pupils in the school and support is provided for children with specific learning disabilities, children with special educational needs and children with exceptional ability. We provide practical guidance to parents on the provision of effective support with a view to enabling all pupils to meet with self-confidence the demands of life, both now and in the future.

We encourage children to reach their full potential and this year there are six full time and two part time teachers on the Learning Support Team. These teachers, working with the class teacher, support children who may need additional help in accessing the curriculum for a wide variety of reasons.

Our model of support can provide in-class support or withdrawal to a learning support room or a combination of both depending on the needs of the pupil. An individual education plan is drawn up for each pupil receiving learning support and both parents and pupils are invited to contribute to the plan.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

St. Attracta's Senior School is subject to the authority of the Board of Management which is composed of eight members - two nominees of the patron (the Archbishop), two parents (a mother and a father), the principal teacher and one other teacher, as well as two other nominees from the local community. Teacher and parent representatives are elected by teachers and parents respectively. The Board is the decision-making body and is responsible for the direct governance of the school. It serves for a period of three years, after which members may be re-appointed. All Board members work in a voluntary capacity for the good of the school. The members of the current Board of Management (2015 - 2019) are as follows:

Name	Role
Nicholas Ryan	Patron's Nominee & Chairperson
Fr. John Bracken	Patron's Nominee
Brendan Donohue	Community Representative
Siobhán Quinn	Community Representative
Sandra Sargent	Parents' Nominee
Tom Horan	Parents' Nominee
Shane Maguire	Teachers' Nominee
Muireann Máirtín	Principal

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

St. Attracta's Junior & Senior Schools have a joint active Parents' Association, which is affiliated to the National Parents' Council. The school and Parents' Association work closely together at all times for the good of all children and of the school in general.

Each September/October an A.G.M. is held at which committee members are elected. The committee meets approximately once a month. The Parents' Association welcomes volunteers to help out at the many events organised by the school and the association.

All volunteers are required to apply for Garda clearance and this can be done through the school office.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE

St. Attracta's Senior School is committed to fostering an environment where all children feel secure and happy throughout their school day and are given every opportunity to work and learn in a pleasant and well-ordered atmosphere. To this end, teachers strive to help each child to develop self-respect and respect for one another. Basic good manners are a prerequisite to this and while good behaviour is acknowledged and praised, misbehaviour of any kind is dealt with immediately.

In early September, all children are made aware of the school's Code of Good Behaviour and the school's Anti-Bullying policy. Under no circumstances will verbal, physical or emotional bullying be tolerated. We strongly encourage children to tell somebody in authority if they are being bullied. A worry box is kept in each classroom to allow children express their concerns and opinions in a confidential way. We ask parents to notify us once they become aware of situations which involve bullying of any sort.

The aim of the Code of Good Behaviour is to protect the rights of all pupils. We monitor closely children when they first come to the school in order that boundaries are established early and that a positive caring relationship is built up with children who may be likely to present with discipline problems. It is hoped that with parental co-operation, such problems will be rectified, so as to maintain a healthy educational environment for the children in our care.

We encourage our pupils to strive to be the best they can be and we present the Scoláire na Míosa (Student of the Month) award to two children in each class selected by the teacher as being outstanding in terms of improvement, effort, co-operation or overall achievement during a particular month.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR

1. Be on time for school with everything you need. School begins at 8.50 a.m.
2. Treat all staff, pupils and school property with care and respect.
3. Behave well and do as staff tells you straight away.
4. Always do your best. Work quietly. Let others do the same.
5. When moving around the school walk quietly and carefully.
6. Wear full school uniform tidily.
7. Follow school rules and routines.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL POLICIES

The following policies – and many others – are available on the school website and may be requested in hard copy format from the school office.

- + Child Protection
- + Code of Good Behaviour
- + Anti-Bullying Policy
- + Enrolment & Admissions
- + Homework
- + Learning Support & Special Needs
- + Assessment
- + Administration of Medicines

TRANSITION FROM JUNIOR TO SENIOR SCHOOL

Every effort is made to make the transition from junior to senior school as easy as possible for the children. In May each year, we hold an Open Day and an Information Meeting for Parents.

In preparation for the new school year, pupils from second class are invited to visit the Senior School in the summer term to meet teachers and to see their classrooms for the coming year. While some children want the security of your company as they start in the Senior School it is important for children who are trying to establish a certain amount of independence to be allowed to do so. If you have any queries or concerns as your child starts school here please keep in touch with us.

SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS

The onus is on parents and guardians to secure places for children in second level schools. It is therefore advisable to make contact with the relevant schools and to register children well in advance of the year they wish to be admitted. In St. Attracta's Senior School we advise parents to check out the enrolment policies of the schools they are considering for their children as each school differs and it is important to select a school that suits the needs of your child.

CONCLUSION

We welcome you to St. Attracta's Senior School and we hope your child will be very happy here. We hope their time spent here will build a foundation for their future lives and that in years to come they may look back fondly on their school days. **Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.**

THE HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL

St. Attracta's Senior School was built in 1980 when we shared accommodation with the Junior School. As the school grew, eight new classrooms were added, but for 25 years we had to make do with 12 classrooms instead of the original 16 which had been planned.

From 1998 to date significant improvements were made to the physical environment of the school, including modern marmoleum flooring, new tables and chairs for pupils, modernisation of the computer room, new ceilings, doors and windows, external fascias and soffits, new tarmacadam in the yard and upgrading and networking of the computer room. Lighting and security cameras were then installed and security film fitted to all classrooms. The old prefab was demolished and a new storage area created, roof lights were installed throughout the school, the security & fire alarms were upgraded, garden areas were landscaped and then a podcasting room was set up.

In 1998 an application to extend the school was forwarded to the Department of Education & Science and finally, ten years after the initial application was submitted, the extension to the school was eventually completed. It included three new classrooms, new learning support/resource rooms, an open bright reception area and storage areas, a new library and a 100m² curriculum room for cookery, music, science, circle time and drama. A dream come true!

The bond between St. Attracta's school and parish was always very strong and Fr. Murtagh, both as parish priest and as Chairman of the Board of Management walked the school grounds each and every morning after 7.25 a.m. Mass - just to be sure that everything was ready for the day. In the early years, Mass was celebrated in the junior school hall, while in the 80's the senior school library was used as a crèche on Sunday mornings. To this day the staff room and class rooms are regularly used for parish meetings and activities and the co-operation between school and parish is epitomised by the school's motto Ar Aghaidh le Chéile. Parishioners are invited to meet the pupils during Book Week and during Catholic Schools Week each year and the 6th class pupils join with the parish community at the ten o'clock Mass each Monday. Despite societal changes and a decline in religious practice generally, the two great highlights of the school year for pupils, parents and parish are still our Christmas Carol Service and Confirmation day.

The Brigidine Sisters were once a focal part of school life, when Sr. Mary and then Sr. Carmel were teachers in the school. St. Brigid's Day is still celebrated with gusto and although the Brigidines are no longer directly involved with the school, they are still a supportive presence in our midst. We remember them each year when we celebrate the feast of St. Brigid.

Two of the most significant changes that have taken place over the past 25 years are reflected in the progress made in the areas of special needs and technology. Initially there was no teacher available to cater for the special educational needs of over 400 pupils. Today, we have eight teachers and eight Special Needs Assistants offering learning support to the pupils in our school.

In 1984, the senior school shared its first ever computer - a Commodore 64 - with the junior school and computers were so expensive that we considered selling our half of the computer and taking out a bank loan to buy our own! This never materialised but later in the year, a very generous parent donated a BBC Master Compact to us. We were the first school in Ireland to have one of these computers and we never looked back. In 1993, the official opening of the computer room by the Minister for Education took place and today the senior school alone has 45 computers and a fully equipped computer room, with 16 brand new computers, all of which are networked. Today all classrooms have interactive whiteboards, used for teaching and learning and we have been recognised by the Department of Education & Skills as a Digital School of Distinction.

In the 1980's the emphasis was very much on the core subjects of Irish, English and Maths. Today, computers, French, dance and relationships education are comfortably placed alongside the traditional subjects. Discovery learning, partnership, diversity, integration, European and global dimensions, environment-based learning as well as life-long learning are all buzz words of today's curriculum. Yet reading is valued as much as ever, due in no small measure to the emphasis placed in the school on books and on reading for pleasure. Our first ever Book Week took place in 1991 and over the years the children have met many famous authors. We boast a state of the art library which the children visit once a week.

Schools are in many ways a microcosm of society and so changes in societal values and norms are reflected both in and by the life of the school. Yet strangely children themselves don't change. They still have an aversion to homework which will most likely still prevail 25 years from now and they still see lunch time (or going home time) as the highlight of the school day. Children, then, now and over the years need to be nurtured and cared for. But it is their thirst for knowledge, their unquenchable enthusiasm for what is new, their childlike optimism and sense of fun, and especially their openness and innocence which makes teaching itself as rewarding in St. Attracta's Senior School today as it was 37 years ago.

Ar aghaidh le chéile!

