

2024/  
2025

# INFORMATION BOOKLET



ST. ATTRACTA'S NATIONAL  
SCHOOL CHARLESTOWN

*NÍ NEART GO CUR LE CHÉILE  
UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create and sustain a learning environment for the children of Charlestown so that each child is enabled:

- To live a full life as a child
- To realise his/her potential
- To develop as a social being with strong Christian Values
- To access further education and lifelong learning

We will strive to provide an appropriate education for every child in our school.

Déanfaimid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt.



## SCHOOL ETHOS

Our school promotes a Catholic ethos and while we warmly welcome children of all faiths and beliefs and none, we take great pride in promoting our Catholic ethos to the full. The following description encapsulates on a practical level what our school ethos means to us:

"Our school 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. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our school provides a religious education for our 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."

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



The BOM has overall responsibility for the school, including finance, maintenance, staffing and the development of the school plan and policies. The Board comprises of two direct nominees of the Patron, two elected parents (a mother and a father) the Principal and one other teacher on the staff elected by vote of the teaching staff and two extra members proposed by these nominees. The Patron appoints the Chairperson of the board. The term of office for the BOM is 4 years.

The school operates in accordance with the rules for National Schools. The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education.

## STAFF

St. Attracta's National School in 2022/23 has 8 mainstream classes and 5 AS classes.

There are:

9 Mainstream Teachers

5 Special Class Teachers

3 Special Educational Needs Teachers

16 Special Needs Assistants

Deputy Principal

The Principal teacher is also further to this team.

## SPECIAL NEEDS/ LEARNING SUPPORT

In St. Attracta's N.S. we have 3 Special Education teachers to ensure that all pupils achieve basic literacy and numeracy skills by the time they complete their primary education. We aim to support pupils experiencing learning difficulties through a team approach involving the pupil, class teacher, special education team, parents, and other relevant personnel i.e. psychologist, speech therapists etc. SNA support is allocated to specified pupils by the DES and NCSE (National Council for Special Education).

## SPECIAL CLASS PROVISION

In this school we aim to offer inclusive educational opportunities for all students. We offer 5 AS classes, one of which is an early intervention class, to cater to the needs of children requiring specialised additional support. Both mainstream and reverse integration allow for the inclusion of all learners in our school.

# COMMUNICATION

- Regular updates and news is distributed using our communication app Aladdin
- An annual Parent / Teacher meeting takes place in the first term - usually November
- Parents can request a meeting with a teacher by making an appointment
- Summer report for each pupil is sent home in June
- Curriculum meetings for parents are organised by the class teacher in September/October
- Log on to our website [www.stattractasns.ie](http://www.stattractasns.ie) for a comprehensive list of all events and information on our school which is regularly updated.
- Please email us with your opinions, views and suggestions at [office@stattractasns.ie](mailto:office@stattractasns.ie)

## ALADDIN

We ask that you use our school communication tool Aladdin for the following:

### Absences

Under the Education Welfare Act 2002 the school is obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer of all absences exceeding 20 days during the academic year. Parents must inform the school of the reason for their child's absence. Absence can be reported on the Aladdin App.

### Early Collections/Late Arrivals

Parents / Guardians must notify the school in advance if their child must leave the school during school time and indicate who they will be collected by. Parents must arrange for their child to be collected from the school main entrance/office.

### Contact Details

We request that you keep your profile section on Aladdin up to date with current address and contact numbers. Should your details change during the year please update the app at your earliest convenience.

### Payments

The Aladdin app also allows us a means of accepting payments online throughout the year for the various fees that arise.

### Noticeboard

We will keep you updated with all relevant news and information using the noticeboard section of the app. There is also a useful links section, where you will find booklists, calendar etc.



### 1. Link From School

You will receive either a text or email from the school.

Within this message there will be a link unique to you.

Simply tap on this link to begin.



### 2. Connect Registration

The link will direct you to the Connect registration page.

You will be required to enter information such as your child's **first name** and **date of birth**, along with your **own name**.



### 3. Account Setup

The next step is to setup your login details.

To create your account you will be asked to enter an **email** and **password** that will act as your login.

Make sure to select an email you have access to and a password you will remember.



### 4. Account Created

Once you have created your account you will be greeted with this screen.

The next step is to download the Connect app.

If you are on mobile you can click the continue button to be directed to



### 5. Download App

You can find the Connect app on both the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

The App is free to install so you will need to simply press the install button to add it to your device.



### 6. Sign Into App

Once you have installed the Connect app the last step is to login.

Parents will use the details set up in **step 3** in order to login.

Once signed in parents will be prompted to enter their mobile number for validation.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Grey jumper with school crest available through the school
- White Shirt
- Black Trousers or Pinafore
- Black leather shoes
- PE sweatshirt with crest available through the school
- Black tracksuit bottoms

No jewellery, rings necklaces permitted

School uniform order will be taken on Aladdin. For further information contact Gemma Higgins School Secretary in the office by calling 094-9254905 or emailing office@stattractasns.ie

## LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure your child's name is on all clothing items, lunch box, drinks bottles, books and stationary.

## PUPIL PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

This scheme covers claims for compensation and/or reimbursement of medical/dental expenses following accidents to pupils in the school where the school is not deemed negligent. The school recommends 24 hour cover at an annual cost of €9 per pupil. Further details will be sent out on Aladdin at the beginning of the school year.

# CURRICULUM

The primary school curriculum is presented in seven primary areas, some of which are further subdivided into subjects. These are:

- Religious Education
- Language (Gaeilge and English)
- Mathematics,
- Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (History, Geography and Science),
- Arts Education (Visual Arts, Music and Drama).
- Physical Education.
- Social, Personal and Health Education.

A meeting for parents/ guardians takes place in the first term where the class teachers discuss the year's programme.



## THEMATIC TEACHING

Our school has adopted a thematic teaching approach aligned to the Primary Curriculum.

The aim of such is to immerse children in topic based teaching to enrich their learning experiences.

We have found it aids inclusivity and allows for a broad and rich vocabulary and topic knowledge. Our children engage in learning activities, that are not always textbook based



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GAA Coaching & Training

Swimming

Traditional Music

Féile Dramaíochta (A drama competition as Gaelge)

Bluestar European Project

Dissolving Boundaries: Technology in Education

Young Entrepreneur Project

Discover Primary Science - Young Scientist Primary

Fís Film Project

Active Schools Flag

Green Schools: Environmental Awareness Programme

Coder Dojo Scratch Programme

Athletics / Cross Country

Soccer

Quiz teams

Robotics

Cycle First

Languages Connect

School Library Membership

St Patricks Day Festival/Parade

Creative Clusters



It is school policy to give the children as much experience as possible of live drama, art exhibitions and museum visits. This entails bringing the children out at times and other times these take place in school. Each class goes on a school tour every year during last term. Every Christmas children from all classes put on a variety concert or carol performance.



## IN OUR SCHOOL....

WE ARE KIND

WE ARE HONEST AND FAIR

WE LISTEN TO OTHERS

WE SHOW RESPECT FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

WE TAKE CARE OF PROPERTY

WE WORK HARD

WE ARE ALWAYS SILENT IN THE LINE

## MOBILE PHONES

No mobile phones are permitted in school



## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

There is an active parent's association in the St. Attracta's N.S. The committee usually meets once a month. The PA liaises regularly with the Principal and provides a forum to raise issues and concerns, suggest and implement initiatives and organises fundraising activities. Full details of the members of our association and their activities can be found on our website [www.stattractasns.ie](http://www.stattractasns.ie)



# POLICIES

## HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday with the children being excused homework on weekends provided that their work has been conscientiously and satisfactorily done on the other nights. Homework is never given on unfamiliar subjects.

Suggested timeframe for homework:

Infants: 10 - 15 mins

1st/2nd: 20 - 30 mins

3rd/4th 30 - 45 mins

5th/6th: 1 hour

If homework is not done a note to the teacher should be written in the homework journal or sent on Seesaw.

Homework journal must be signed by Parent/Guardian every night.

Please Note: It is important that your child has somewhere quiet to study away from noise and distraction - a busy kitchen or a room near a television are not recommended!

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

As part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E) Programme we encourage the children to become more aware of the need for healthy food in their lunch boxes.

Foods not allowed in school:

Crisps

Fizzy Drinks

Sweets

Chocolate biscuits/bars

## EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

During the school year, appropriate educational outings will be available to all children. The school requests written permission from Parents/Guardians at the start of the school year



## ANTI - BULLYING

In this school we strive to create a positive school climate, which focuses on respect for the individual, which encourages trust, caring, consideration and support for others. Pupils are encouraged to report incidents of bullying, and all reports will be noted, investigated and dealt with by the teachers.

## CHILD PROTECTION

The Board of Management is obliged to report any concerns in relation to child abuse to the Health Board in accordance with the Guidelines and Procedures issued to all schools by D.E.S. The Health Board will assess the case and put measures in place to provide the necessary supports for the child concerned. Abuse is defined as - neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse. The Stay Safe Programme is taught explicitly in Senior Infants, First, Third and Fifth classes and reviewed annually. The aim of the programme is to develop the personal safety skills of primary school children.

## DATA PROTECTION

The school is registered with the Data Protection Agency. All information is kept on file and will only be retained in the school for administration purposes only. Parents can access information on their own child.

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

In the event of illness or an accident, minimum first aid is administered and parents/guardians are informed when collecting their child. In the event of a serious accident/illness the parents will be informed, and if necessary the child will be brought to hospital.

Children with a long-term medical condition will be accommodated in order that they continue with their education. Parents/Guardians must seek permission in writing from the Board of Management on an annual basis.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

Copies of all the school's policies are available on request at the office or accessed on our school website [www.stattractasns.ie](http://www.stattractasns.ie)



## TIPS TO ENCOURAGE A SMOOTH TRANSITION INTO JUNIOR INFANTS

- Children should be able to open and close their own lunch box and drink.
- Reusable drink containers rather than cartons with straws are recommended as these are more practical to reseal and save for a later break.
- Lunches should be realistic in size and be child friendly. If your child is unable to peel their fruit perhaps this could be done at home, sliced and put in a container. Fruits should be washed at home.
- Children should be encouraged to put on and close their own jackets. Children need to be shown what to do when the sleeves are inside out. (It helps to practice this when you are not going somewhere.)
- Children should be able to open and close their uniform skirt/trouser themselves. Children should follow good toileting practices i.e. using toilet correctly, flushing and washing hands.
- All children need a jacket, hat and mittens during the winter months. Mittens rather than gloves are encouraged.
- Children require a good-sized school bag to carry their books which they can open and close easily. Bags need to be tall enough to fit folders and activity books without bending them.
- Every item belonging to your child needs to be clearly labelled including uniform jumpers, jackets etc. It helps if pencils and individual colours are also labelled to avoid mix ups.
- Please check your child's stationery each day to ensure they have the necessary items for the following day. It may be necessary to replace some stationery items throughout the year.
- All children need to take responsibility for their own property.
- It helps if children can write their own name but is not essential. It should be taught in lower case letters except for the first letter.
- Provide opportunities for the child to use a scissors.

# REMINDERS

Please ensure your telephone numbers and contact details are correct on Aladdin and updated when necessary.

We will welcome you all back to school with your child in June. At this time your child's class teacher will outline some helpful tips to assist you and your child with the transition to our school.

Other items on the agenda at this presentation will be School calendar 2024/2025, booklists, book rental scheme, school uniform etc.

The school uniform can be purchased on this date.

Finally if you have any other queries / questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We encourage you to visit our school website to give you a window into life here in St Attracta's [www.stattractasns.ie](http://www.stattractasns.ie)

