



Holy Family Community School

Pobalscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa

Principal: Ingrid Fallon

Deputy Principals: Denise O' Keeffe, Liam Ferguson, Derek Maher

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June 2023

To Parents/Guardians of First Year Students 2023-24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The whole school community welcomes your son/daughter to our school and looks forward to working with you over the coming years.

Your son/daughter starts school on Monday 28th August 9.00am – 12.00pm. Your son/daughter will not need textbooks on this day. However, your son/daughter should have their fully charged iPad with them as they will be given training by staff. Students must also have their school Dialann with them. First Years are not in school on Tuesday 29th, but are in school again on Wednesday 30th August 8.45am – 1.00pm and all days thereafter. Please see all details regarding reopening dates and times here: <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Reopening-dates-D-2023-24.pdf>

Code of Behaviour and Dialann:

Parents/Guardians, as partners with teachers and the Board of Management, must accept the Code of Behaviour as a precondition to their son's/daughter's enrolment in the school. All students **must** have a Dialann (school journal). A copy of the Code of Behaviour is available on the school website and parents and students must sign the declaration of agreement in the Dialann.

Classes and Subjects:

Please note that all First-Year classes will be mixed-ability classes. Your son/daughter will take the following core subjects:

Gaeilge, English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE), Religious Education (RE), Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE), Physical Education (PE) and Wellbeing.

Your son/daughter has already received his/her option subjects and the timetable will be given to him/her on Monday 28th August.

Booklist:

The First Year Booklist is located here: <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Booklist-First-Year-2023-24-HFCS-Rathcoole.pdf>

You can purchase the physical books from **any book shop** or at [Book Haven School Books - School Books | Schoolbooks | Children's Books | Games and Toys](#) and insert the code **pdfj1y** for the HFCS booklist. The access code for each digital book will be located inside the cover of the physical book. This code should be uploaded to the iPad as per publisher's instructions on their app or website before the student commences school.

Please see information regarding sibling codes for e-books that some publishers provide for free or at a reduced cost. Please note that this information was sourced by the parent's association and the publishers can change these details at any time. ***The issue of e-book codes is a matter solely for parents/guardians with publishers, and the school is not involved or responsible.*** The information can be accessed here: <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Sibling-Codes-for-Ebooks-April-23.pdf>

The school bookshop will be open from **9.15 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** each day from **Wednesday 16th August to Thursday 22nd August**. Parents who availed of the **pre-order** facility **before 9th June 2023** can collect their order on any of the above dates.

iPad:

Important information relating to the iPad can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/iPad-Info-Updated-June-2023.pdf>

Stationery, photocopying, postage & ICT:

All students must pay **€50** towards stationery, photocopying, postage, and ICT costs. This fee can be paid by using the Easy Payments Plus system (details at the end of this notice) or in the school bookshop. This will be receipted separately.

School uniform – Please see photos attached for reference:

The school uniform should be purchased from the official school supplier, Schoolwear House, Unit D7, Ballymount Cross Industrial Estate, Ballymount, Dublin 24. Tel: 014604371; Email info@schoolwearhouse.ie **Please see the photos at the end of this information notice for a list of uniform necessities and photographs of uniform and PE uniform.**

All students must wear their school uniform in school or when representing the school. Students who fail to wear their uniform will be sanctioned. We take great pride in our school uniform. **Students are permitted to wear trainers/runners, but they MUST BE PLAIN BLACK with no coloured sole or markings.**

P.E. uniform:

The PE uniform is available from the official school uniform supplier: www.schoolwearhouse.ie

The PE uniform should be worn all day on the assigned PE class day. The PE uniform cannot be worn instead of the official uniform on other days. Only the full official PE uniform is acceptable. **Other tracksuits/leggings/hoodies or shorts are NOT school uniform and should never be worn.**

Jackets:

All students must wear a plain black school jacket. Hoodies are NOT acceptable.

Sew-on crests:

Sew-on crests can be ordered from the school. Please note that the garment to be used must be of the same standard and quality as the official school uniform.

VShare:

VShare is the management and communication system used by the school. Parents/guardians can look at their child's timetable, attendance, exam results and behaviour record on VShare. It is also the system used to communicate messages to parents/guardians. In order to receive messages, parents/guardians **MUST** download the VShare app on your mobile device and allow notifications. Instructions on how to download the VShare app can be found here: <https://support.vshare.ie/en/parent-app-overview>

Taking holidays during term: The school asks parents/guardians not to take students out of school to go on holidays during the school term. This practice is unfair to your son/daughter, fellow students, and teachers. Students absent for 20 or more days must be reported to the Educational Welfare Officer, TUSLA.

School calendar / notice of meetings:

Please click this link to access the School Calendar and Notice of Meetings for the Academic Year 2023/24. <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/School-Calendar-2023-24-for-Parents-1.pdf> We ask parents/guardians to regularly check the online calendar for updates throughout the school year.

School Policies: School policies may be found on the school website at <http://www.hfcs.ie/our-policies-and-useful-information/>. Parents/guardians and students are expected to read these policies and students must abide by **all** school policies.

Additional Needs: Please ensure that you inform the school if your child has a medical or learning need. This enables the school to provide appropriate support for your child. Please email info@hfcs.ie for the attention of Mr. M. Savage, SEN coordinator.

Lunch break:

First, Second- and Third-Year students **must remain on the school grounds** during lunchbreak. First, Second and Third Year students who live in Rathcoole may go **home** for their lunch if they have a lunch pass. Lunch passes will only be issued by Year Heads to students who have the written permission of their parents/guardians as recorded in their Dialann. Sanctions will be imposed on students who break this rule.

Personal accident insurance scheme:

All students will avail of the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance Scheme when they purchase the school Dialann as they must be purchased together. **All students must take out this insurance** which gives 24-hour cover, 365 days a year (including during school holidays). The cover includes school activities, social, domestic and leisure activities **inside and outside of school hours**. The Insurance can be purchased through the Microsoft Form/Booklist & Stationery list sent through VShare, or at the school bookshop.

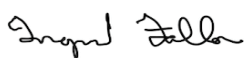
Voluntary Contribution:

Parents are asked to contribute **€75** for 1 child, **€100** for 2 children and **€125** for 3 children. The Easy Payments Plus facility is the preferred payment option. Parents can make this contribution by cash or cheque to the school also. All contributions are very much needed and gratefully appreciated. Money contributed by parents is used to supplement areas not adequately funded by the Department of Education and Skills. In the past the Voluntary Contribution helped provide a fully equipped computer room and an additional science laboratory.

Please note that access to EasyPay on website will be granted to parents of First Years in late June. You will be notified when access is granted.

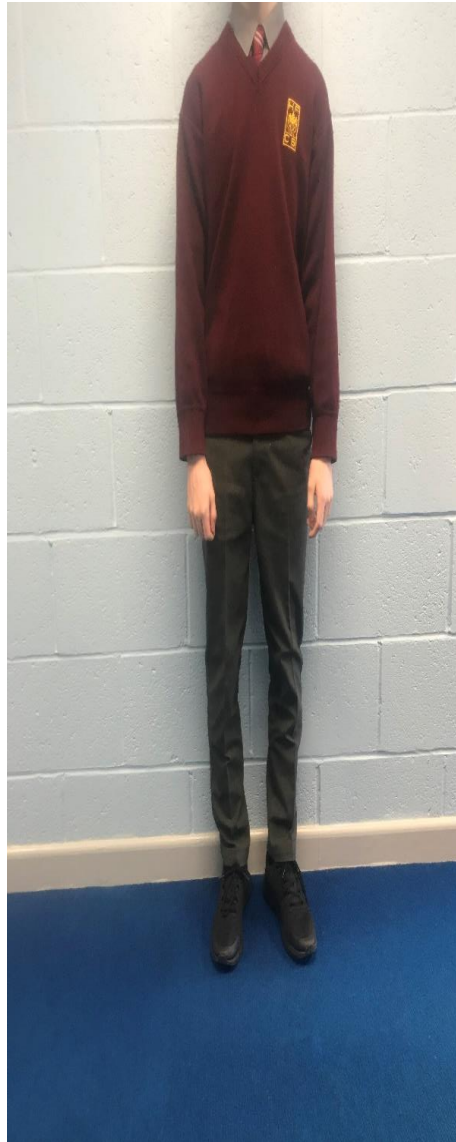
Details of how to set up/access EasyPay can be viewed here: <https://www.hfcs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Online-School-Payment-Facility-June-2023.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Fallon (Principal)

JUNIOR SCHOOL UNIFORM



School Uniform for Junior Students

- **Girls** – White shirt, Wine jumper with official school crest, School skirt or grey trousers, Knee high black or grey socks/tights with skirt and fully black shoes.
- **Boys** – Grey shirt, wine tie, wine jumper with official school crest, grey trousers and fully black shoes.

Please note that wearing the correct uniform is an important part of the school's Code of Behaviour which is signed by all students and parents/guardians. Failure to wear the correct uniform will lead to a sanction.

PE UNIFORM FOR ALL YEARS



PE Uniform

- Students must wear the correct school PE uniform.
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms with no logos or stripes.
- The school polo shirt and/or the school PE sweatshirt must be worn.
- Comfortable runners/trainers to be worn. Converse or similar are not to be worn.
- **No leggings or shorts allowed.**