



Holy Family Community School

- ▶ First Year Information Meeting
- ▶ Thursday 4th September 2025
- ▶ Welcome

A message from Ms T O'Brien (Yearhead)

- ▶ I would like to welcome you all to the first year Information Night.
- ⑩ All School Policies may be found on the school website at www.hfcs.ie/our-policies-and-useful-information/
- ⑩ Parents/guardians and students are expected to read these policies and students must abide by all school policies.
- ⑩ If you have any questions re the presentation, please put them in the chat box and we will deal with them at the end.
- ⑩ If you have a specific question about your son/daughter please email info@hfcs.ie and direct it to the relevant person you wish to speak to.

A message from Ms T O'Brien (Yearhead)

During this presentation I hope to communicate relevant information to help support the transition of our First Year students to Holy Family Community School.

First year is very much a time of transition and change

- - Changes in the school system
- - Social Change
- - Changes in schoolwork
- - Different procedures and Code of conduct

For more information on this issue please see our website www.hfcs.ie

INFORMATION ABOUT HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The school's trustees are:

- The Spiritan Education Trust (SET)**
- CEIST**
- Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB**

- ▶ Our school is a community of students, staff, parents and the Board of Management
- ▶ Our school comprises students of every faith and none.
- ▶ We follow “A Christian value system encompassing respect, responsibility, co-operation, honesty, fairness and friendship.” (Vision Statement, www.hfcs.ie)

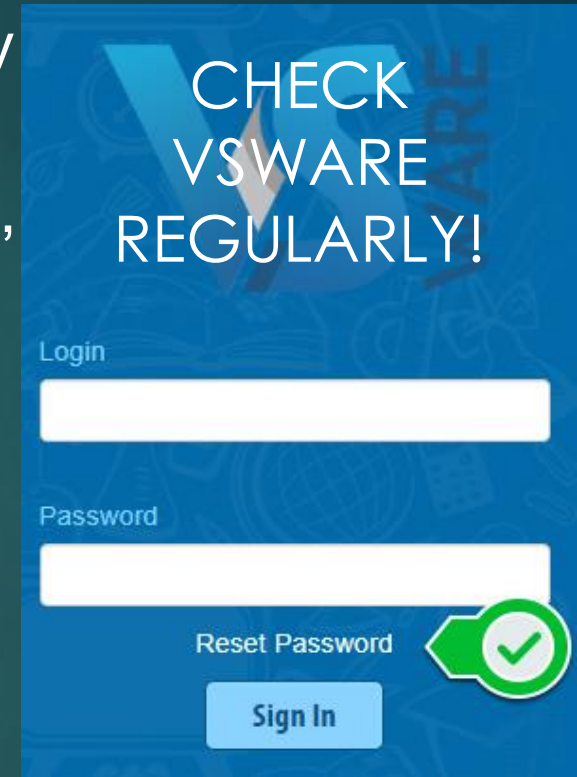
Communication

Parent/Guardian to School

- ▶ *The School Secretary, Ms. Lorraine O'Connell, is the main channel to contact teachers, Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principals and Principal*
- ▶ Phone calls (01-4580766)
- ▶ Emails to info@hfcs.ie
- ▶ Absence notes sent via VShare
- ▶ Notes in Dialann for individual subject teachers or contact made through email/phone call
- ▶ All meetings between parents/guardians and staff members must be made by appointment.

Communication between school and parents

- ▶ **VShare** is the management and communication system used by the school.
- ▶ Parents/guardians can look at their child's timetable, attendance, assessment results and behaviour record on VShare.
- ▶ **Absence notes must be communicated to the school through VShare.**
- ▶ Vshare is also the system used to communicate messages to parents/guardians.
- ▶ In order to receive messages, please ensure that you 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>

The image shows the VShare login interface. At the top, it says "CHECK VSHARE REGULARLY!" in white text on a blue background. Below this, there are two white input fields for "Login" and "Password". To the right of the password field is a green circular icon with a white checkmark. Below the input fields, there is a "Reset Password" link and a blue "Sign In" button.

CHECK
VSHARE
REGULARLY!

Login

Password

Reset Password

Sign In



Other forms of communication

- ▶ Website www.hfcs.ie
- ▶ Twitter [@hfcsrathcoole](https://twitter.com/hfcsrathcoole)
- ▶ Email info@hfcs.ie
- ▶ School reports
- ▶ Parent/Teacher meeting
- ▶ Meetings for specific issues eg. AEN, behaviour issues etc.
- ▶ Information Meetings



Partnership

Ms Ingrid Fallon – Principal

Ms Denise O Keeffe – Deputy Principal

Mr Liam Ferguson – Deputy Principal

Mr Derek Maher – Deputy Principal

Ms T O'Brien – Yearhead

Tutors of class groups

Brave: Mr
Keightley &
Mr Barrins

Encanto: Mr
Gormley &
Ms Creighton

Fantasia: Mr
Weldon & Ms
Cunningham

Hercules: Mr
Bolger & Ms
Quinlan

Incredibles:
Ms Sherlock
& Ms Deasy

Valiant: Ms
Ring & Ms
Doody

Wish: Mr
Savage & Ms
Finn

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

- ▶ Guidance Counsellors – Ms. U McDonnell, Ms. K. O'Connell & Ms. C. Perris
- ▶ Chaplain – Mr. N. McConnell
- ▶ AN Co-Ordinator – Mr M. Savage
- ▶ Yearhead and Senior Management Team.
- ▶ Tutors and subject teachers
- ▶ Mentors



Year Head - Ms T O'Brien

Has overall responsibility for:

- ▶ Discipline
- ▶ Monitoring Academic Progress
- ▶ Coordinating Pastoral Care
- ▶ Liaising with Parents
- ▶ Liaising with tutors and subject teachers

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Team: Principal, Deputy Principals, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellors, SEN Coordinator

Core Purpose is to coordinate the support available for all students in the school

Student referrals are from staff, parents and students

Uniform & Class Equipment

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Wear

Students must wear full school uniform. Black shoes and ties.

Wear

Students must wear correct school P.E. uniform on P.E. day. Only the official school P.E. gear is allowed (no leggings).

Have

Students must have a note if not wearing the uniform (note only covers one day and this should rarely happen)

Make

Please make sure your son/daughter has all the books/iPad etc. listed on their booklists

Ensure

Please ensure your child's name is on everything

Check

Check your son's/daughter's timetable (on VShare) at night to make sure he/she is properly prepared for the next day – some students will need help with this for a while.

SCHOOL POLICIES



All HFCS policies and useful information are available on the school website



<https://www.hfcs.ie/our-policies-and-useful-information/>



The Code of Behaviour and Discipline should be read by students and parents and is available in the students' journals and on the website. It must be signed in the dialann.

Health and Safety

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Have

- Always have an appointment

Do not enter

- Do not enter school grounds except by prior arrangement

Drop off and
pick up

- Drop off and pick up students at the front of the school

Do not stop
on

- Do not stop on the roundabout or in the school gateway or across the driveways of houses

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS DUE TO BUILDING WORKS



Accessing or attempting to access the construction site for the new school building is forbidden.



Parents/guardians must not drop off or collect at either roundabout outside school. Top roundabout is now an access point for construction machinery



Students must be aware of new fire evacuation route/procedures. Fire drills will take place.

School Procedures

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Classes begin at 8.45am and finish at 3.40pm (1pm on Wed.). Students must be in school 5 minutes before first class in the morning and first class in the afternoon

Morning break is from 10.45am - 11.00am Lunch break 1.00pm – 1.40pm

Students who live in Rathcoole **only**, are allowed home for lunch with the written permission of their parents/guardians. This note must be brought to the Year Head and a Home Pass will be issued.

All students are expected to take a turn at the lunch time cleaning roster

Personal Electronic Devices

PLEASE READ
AUP POLICY
ON SCHOOL
WEBSITE

Must be off and out of sight at all times during school day

Students **must not** take photographs or recordings of any member of the school community.

Students must not use their personal electronic devices to abuse, threaten, harass or bully other students or staff or use these devices to invade the privacy of any member of the school community. Infringement of these rules is taken very seriously by the school.

Parents must not phone students during the school day

Please read www.cybersafeireland.org and www.webwise.ie

Attendance & Punctuality - Ms. Siobhan Connaughton- Attendance Co-ordinator

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- ▶ Regular attendance is extremely important.
- ▶ Absence notes must be sent via VShare.
- ▶ Please avoid family holidays during term time
- ▶ Students who are absent for 20 days will be reported to TUSLA
- ▶ Remember that classes start at 8.45a.m. Students must be in school before 8.40a.m.
- ▶ Detention may be given to regular latecomers



General Sickness Procedures and leaving school early

- ▶ Please do not send a sick child to school
- ▶ Student must not use mobile phone to contact parent/ guardian if they feel ill in school.
- ▶ The student must get the teacher's permission to go to Reception
- ▶ The school secretary then contacts the parent/ guardian
- ▶ PLEASE ENSURE THAT A CORRECT PHONE NUMBER IS ON VSWARE TO CONTACT YOU
- ▶ Student must be collected by parent/guardian and sign out at reception when collected
- ▶ Any student being collected by a parent during the school day must present a note to the Year Head or send a note via VSware and sign out at reception before leaving by the front door

Detention

- ▶ Is on Wednesdays from 1.15p.m. to 2.15p.m.
- ▶ Parents/ Guardians will be informed by the school when detention is given and the reason for detention
- ▶ Parents must organise transport home for their son/daughter
- ▶ Failure to attend detention may result in suspension
- ▶ If a student is unable to attend detention, a note must be presented to the Behaviour Management Co-ordinator.





Merit Comments

Merit comments are part of the student awards' system in the school.

- Ø They are not given for academic achievement
- Ø They reward consistent good effort; sustained improvement and positive contributions to the school
- Ø It is an honour to be awarded a merit
- Ø Merit comments are awarded by staff and recorded on VShare. . It is important to praise your son/daughter if he/she receives a merit .

Extra-curricular activities

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Athletics

Basketball

Choir

Debating

Gaelic
Football

Gymnastics

Hurling /
Camogie

Public
Speaking

Soccer

Extra-curricular activities

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- ▶ Encourage your son/daughter to get involved in activities
- ▶ Students must remember that good behaviour will be expected during extra-curricular activities and when representing the school
- ▶ Students are expected to do assigned homework if they miss class due to participation in an extra-curricular activity.
- ▶ Voluntary Contributions fund extra-curricular activities
- ▶ Personal Accident Insurance Scheme - €10 per student. This gives 24/7 cover

New Junior Cycle Framework

- ▶ This Framework is available to view at:
<https://ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/framework-for-junior-cycle>

The main points of the Framework are:

- 8 Principles
- 24 Statements of Learning describe what students should know, understand, value and be able to do at the end of junior cycle
- 8 Key skills include Literacy, Numeracy and 6 other skills
- ▶ Maths, English and Gaeilge are 240 hour courses
- ▶ Other subjects are 200 hour courses
- ▶ Short courses are 100 hours
- ▶ Priority Learning Units (PLUs) are for students with moderate general learning difficulties (GLD)



New Junior Cycle Framework

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Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) Certificate will include a report on Wellbeing and other areas of learning from First to Third year

Assessment of schoolwork - 2nd Year Classroom Based Assessment (CBA 1) - 3rd Year (CBA 2 & Assessment Task (AT))

Descriptors are used instead of grades.

Descriptors are awarded instead of marks. They are

- **Yet to meet expectations**
- **In line with expectations**
- **Above expectations**
- **Exceptional**

Terminal examination (June, 2026)

Grade Descriptors for the terminal exams are awarded by the State Exams Commission (SEC)

They are

- **Partially achieved (20 to 39%)**
- **Achieved (40 to 54 %)**
- **Merit (55 to 74 %)**
- **Higher Merit (75 to 89%)**
- **Distinction (90 to 100%)**

Further information :
www.ncca.ie or
www.juniorcycle.ie

CONNECTED



RESPECTED



AWARE



ACTIVE



RESILIENT



RESPONSIBLE



INDICATORS

Wellbeing at HFCS

What does wellbeing look like at our school?

- **Indicators of Wellbeing:** Wellbeing is identified using indicators designed by the NCCA in their Junior Cycle Wellbeing Guidelines in 2017.
- Students learn about wellbeing using these indicators. Our goal is to provide students with the resources, knowledge, skills and tools of well-being, so that as they journey through their lives, they have the strategies to cope with the struggles and daily stresses of life.
- Wellbeing is a programme at Junior Cycle. It accounts for 400 hours of learning over a range of subjects and learning experiences.
- SPHE, CSPE, PE, Digital Media Literacy, Wellbeing Tutor Time & Extra-Curricular
- Other learning experiences include themed weeks and events throughout the year such as our Positive Mental Health weeks organized by the Amber Flag Committee, our First Year Wellbeing Retreat day, subject themed weeks, and a range of guest speakers from organisations such as the Charity Aware.

Students

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We want our students to be happy in HFCS

Bullying will not be tolerated and should be reported to the school

Students are expected to show manners and use "please" "thank you" "excuse me" etc.

Students are expected to show respect for each other and to watch out for one another

Students are asked to treat others as they would like to be treated

Parents Council AGM is Tuesday 7th October at 6.30pm in the school building.

Get involved in the HFCS Parents Council

**Follow us
on
Facebook**



HFCS Parents Council Group

**Follow us
on
Instagram**



@hfcs_parents council

**To join the
Parents Council
email**



parentscouncil@hfcs.ie

First year Maths Parents' Partnership

- ▶ Parents hold the key to a child's development and feelings towards maths.
- ▶ All parents welcome to gain insight into how we teach maths.
 - Some parents may have learned maths in a different language/system e.g Gaelscoileanna, some may lack confidence in helping their child.
- ▶ Help with homework and workshop activities.
- ▶ Microsoft form will be sent to first year students' email.
- ▶ Great opportunity for parents to partner with teachers.

Parent-Teacher Meeting

- ▶ 15th January 2026 4.15-6.45pm
- ▶ A chance to meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress
- ▶ Put the date on your calendar.

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Thank you for your
attendance tonight and
we are delighted to have
you all as part of our
school community