

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q Can children not be allowed into the school before 9am when it's raining.

A In line with Department regulations, the schools open at 9am. There is no obligation on the school to open the doors before this time. The Principals will allow entry to the school hall shortly before 9am on days on which the weather is inclement. This decision, taken on the day, is purely at the discretion of the Principals of the schools.

Q: My child is saying that they do not have enough time to eat their lunch:

A: Teachers allocate sufficient time to eat lunch. Take a look at what you are giving them – would it be too much for them? Is it easy to open? Are they talking?

Q: Is there enough supervision in the yard?

A: The schoolyard is fully supervised in line with the guidelines from the department of Education and Science. Incidents are recorded by the Teacher on duty who liaises with the class teacher if there has been a problem. It is recognised by the school that playtime is important for children's social development. Teachers on duty are vigilant and will be aware if children are being excluded. The schools will not condone such behaviour and will endeavor to have all children included at playtime.

Q: Do you have a healthy eating policy

A: Yes, see 'Healthy Lunch Boxes' on websites.

Q: Do you have After School Clubs?

A: Details of afterschool activities can be found on the Bishop Shanahan's website under the Activities / Extracurricular Activities section. Details of after school classes in Bishop Galvin will be sent home by teachers at the beginning of each term.

Q: Do the children remain with the same class from Junior Infants?

A: In accordance with approved school policy, classes are re-distributed every two years.

Q: What should I do if my child has a problem in school?

A: Speak to the child's teacher. It is advisable to phone the school to make an appointment. Meetings cannot take place during school time unless suitable supervision arrangements are in place. Formal meetings should not take place outside classrooms.

Q: How can I find out more about what my child is learning in school?

A: The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) have lots of information about the various subjects at all levels, see www.ncca.ie

Q: Is my child getting too much homework?

A: The amount of homework and the time to be allocated to it are key features of the school's homework policy. The teacher should be alerted if a child is struggling to complete the tasks set. Please refer to the Information Handbook you were given when your child started in the school.

Q: When should I expect to meet my child's teacher?

A: You will be notified of the date and time when the parent-teacher meetings are to be held. If you need to meet your child's teacher on another occasion you should phone the school to make an appointment. Meetings cannot take place during school time unless suitable supervision arrangements are in place.

Q: How do schools communicate with Parents?

A: Schools communicate with parents by sending notes home with the child. You should check your child's school bag each day for notes. Text alerts may, on occasion, be sent to parents. Please ensure the school has up to date contact details. A monthly newsletter will also give updates about school activities and relevant dates.

The school websites also give valuable information and are regularly updated.

Teachers may contact parents by telephone or by placing a note in the Homework Journal on matters relating to individual children. In the same way, parents should contact the school at the earliest opportunity if their child is having problems with school work. Care should be taken not to put notes of a sensitive nature in the Homework Journal.

Q: Do we give Christmas Presents to the Teachers

A: In recent years the school has requested that children should not give presents to the Teachers.

Q: Pupil Insurance – is my child covered 24hrs or just while in school

A: Yes - all children in the school are insured under the Brennan Insurances School Personal Accident scheme. The cost is included in the "extras". Details and claim forms can be found under www.pupilcover.ie or contact the school office.

Q: Can the school not run foreign language classes after school.

A: Teachers in the school may be available from time to time to offer such classes. The school will also consider outside parties giving classes.

Q: When will school photographs be taken.

A: It has been agreed with both schools that photographs will be taken as follows:

Junior Infants – at beginning of school year.
Second Class – at Holy Communion time
Fourth Class – at beginning of school year
Sixth Class – at Confirmation time.