

Knockaderry Farranfore National School Farranfore Killarney

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Welcome Booklet

**Tá fáilte romhaibh chuig Scoil Naisúinta
Cnoc a' Doire!**

History of our school



Knockaderry Farranfore National School is a co-educational Catholic school located in Farranfore Village, Co. Kerry. This school building opened on the 2nd November 1998. The old Knockaderry National School (Liam Lynch's Skoda Garage) was built in 1888 and was originally two schools – a boy's school and a girls' school with a high wall dividing the school yard. The name Knockaderry has been associated with education even longer than this as it is believed that a hedge school was located on the banks of the river, behind the old school where the old shelter was located. Knockaderry is Cnoc A' Doire in Irish, meaning the hill of the oak trees.

School Vision

Knockaderry Farranfore National School seeks to provide a very high standard of education to all of the pupils in the school in a friendly, welcoming Catholic school environment. It welcomes children of all faiths and none.

‘Déanfar grá dár gcultúr a cothú ins na daltaí’

The children of the school are encouraged to be responsible members of the school and local community.

The school envisages the holistic development of the children through teaching Christian values and encouraging participation in extra-curricular activities.

Knockaderry Farranfore National School values all of the children in the school. The school recognises the fact that all children learn in different ways and have different abilities and talents that will be nurtured in the school.

School Staff

The school has 5 teachers, three mainstream and two Special Education teachers. The teachers are Mrs. Áine Daly (Teaching Principal), Ms. Tara Mc Sherry (Deputy Principal), Mrs. Jessica Sherwood, Ms. Aoife Breen and Ms. Katrina Ladden. We currently have 3 Special Needs Assistants; Mrs. Kathleen Mahony, Mrs. Carmel Kelly and Mrs. Paula Cronin. Our cleaner is Ms. Eleanor Coffey and Mrs. Paula Cronin is our part-time secretary.

School Day



School begins at **9:00 a.m.** Please ensure that your child is punctual. Children miss out on essential social elements of the school day if they are late.

Supervision is provided each morning from **8.30 a.m.**

Children line up on the yard in the morning and are met by their teacher, who escorts them into class.

Morning Break is at **11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.**
Lunch Time is at **12:30 p.m. – 13:00 p.m.**

Junior & Senior Infants go home at **1:40 p.m.**
1st – 6th Classes go home at **2:40 p.m.**

Please note that Junior Infants will finish earlier for the first two weeks at 12.15 p.m.

Board of Management Members 2023-2027

Hugh O'Connell
Tom Kelliher
Dan Smyth
Katie Ellard
Áine Daly
Aoife Breen
Kathleen Kerins
Frances O'Sullivan

Chairperson
Patron Nominee
Elected Parent
Elected Parent
Principal Teacher
Elected Teacher
Community Representative
Community Representative

Attendance



Your child **should** attend school every day.

Schools have an obligation to report absences of **twenty days** or more to the National Education Welfare Board.

Please phone or email the school or write a note to the class teacher if the child is absent. For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parents or

persons named in a letter signed by parents. Children should only be collected early if it is absolutely necessary. If your child is ill, please do not send them to school. Take your doctor's advice regarding rashes and infections.

Uniform

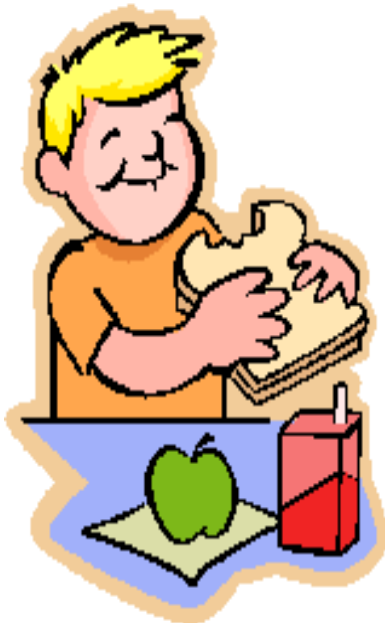
A school uniform helps a child to feel that he/she belongs to a school. It also helps prevent undesirable competition in clothes, especially among older children. The uniform consists of generic pieces available in many chain stores (eg. Dunnes, Marks & Spencers), at a reasonable cost. We expect children to wear full school uniform each day – usually Monday to Wednesday. However, on Thursday and Fridays we have sports. There may be days outside of this where the children are asked to wear their sports uniform, this will be communicated to the parents via the Homework Diary.

School Uniform:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cream shirt or blouse● Wine V neck Jumper or cardigan● Wine Tie● Grey trousers/pinafore/skirt● Grey socks for boys, Grey tights only and socks grey or white for girls● Black school shoes or all black runners with black soles
Sports Uniform:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Plain full length navy tracksuit pants● Plain navy sweatshirt or zipped jacket (no logos) or Firies Navy Club hoody.● White Polo shirt with collar● White socks● Any colour runners may be worn with the Sports Uniform.
Summer Uniform*:
<p>*When the weather is particularly good the children will be notified that they can wear shorts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Plain Navy shorts or Firies shorts.

Please see our [Uniform Policy](#) for full details.

- Please ensure your **child's hair** is tied back, out of their eyes.
- **Minimal jewellery** such as a watch or stud earrings is permitted.
- **Nail Varnish** is not permitted.
- Please **label** all items belonging to your child, especially items of uniform.
- **School bag:** A good size school bag is required. A lot of their school books are very tall and often do not fit into the smaller bags! Help them to be independent and allow them to practice opening and closing the bag during the holidays.

Lunches



There are 2 breaks during the day, during which children play. After the short morning break, they have time for a quick snack. At lunchtime, following yard play time the children are provided with hot meals provided by The Lunch Bag www.thelunchbag.ie We promote a healthy eating policy in our school.

The following are never allowed:
fizzy drinks, chewing gum, nuts

(due to allergies).

Friday Treat: One treat is acceptable on Fridays e.g. chocolate/biscuits.

HSE advise that the following foods should not be given to children under the age of 5 years: marshmallows, popcorn, chewing gum, small hard round or oval-shaped sweets - these include boiled sweets, cough drops, fruit gums, jelly beans, lollipops, caramels and chocolate mini eggs, small hard chocolates for further information visit www.hse.ie

An example of a healthy snack

Sandwiches/crackers/breadsticks/wraps/rice cakes
Fruit (which the child can easily manage) e.g., grapes, raisins, bananas, peeled oranges, apple slices
Salad, tomatoes, rice/pasta dishes,
Vegetable sticks e.g., carrot sticks/celery.
Water, milk, juice, smoothies
Yoghurts - please ensure that they are set yoghurts and that your child has a spoon. (with their name taped onto it)

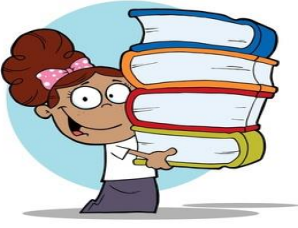
Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled

For healthy lunch options and ideas visit www.safefood.net

<https://www.safefood.net/getattachment/4547abbf-c8f6-40c0-9d22-1b54448486ad/1998-Safefood-Healthy-Lunchbox-Leaflet-FINAL-ENGLISH-DIGITAL.pdf?lang=en-IE>

Books and other school requisites

Your child's books and copies may be kept at school by the teacher. Each child is required to have his/her own pencils, eraser, pointer and colours – either twistables or colouring pencils, in school every day. Pencils – 2B or 3B or triangular pencils or grips are recommended for infants. Each child should have his/her own twistables or



colouring pencils in a separate pencil-case from their writing pencils (with their erasers and pointers) to avoid confusion. **No markers please in school unless specified by the class teacher.** Your child will also need a Pritt stick for sticking pictures into copies.

Allergies / Administration of Medication



The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, teachers do not personally undertake the administration of medication (e.g., inhalers, injections, application of creams and ointments [Health & Safety Child Protection Issue]) The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date.

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.

Head Lice is unfortunately common in all primary schools. Where possible tie your child's hair back. Check your child's hair weekly. If infected, inform the school and treat your child.



Accidents in School

If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted by the school.

Head Injuries- It is the school's policy that in the case of any head injury, regardless of the severity, a phone call will be made to the parents.

Contact Numbers / Mobile Phones



It is very important that you keep us up to date with contact numbers in case of an emergency. Remember to let us know if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Teachers will meet with parents during the first term through a Parent Teacher Meeting where your child's progress is discussed. The teacher may contact you at any stage of the year if there is something to be discussed. Teachers are unable to take calls during class time. Should you wish to speak to a class teacher please ring the school to make an appointment.

End of Year reports will be issued in June.

Parental Involvement

We believe that parents, the school and the community working together enhance the education of our students. Parental involvement in Knockaderry Farranfore National

School is encouraged, welcomed and very much appreciated.

Parents' Association

We hope to re-establish a **Parent Association (P.A.)** in the school this year. These parents would be actively involved in policy development at the school and supporting opportunities for the children. They may help with organising fundraising events which help to subsidise activities for the children such as music, singing, dancing and swimming. The P.A. is a great way to get involved with the school. We will be providing more information in the coming weeks.



Sports at school



We are very fortunate to have an excellent basketball coach, Aoife Nolan, who visits the school every second Wednesday. Football training is also provided to different classes throughout the year by PJ Reidy. Colm O' Brien also calls to teach hurling every second week. Swimming is provided as part of the P.E. curriculum throughout your child's time at school. During their time with us the children will get to experience other sports such as Tag Rugby, Soccer, Athletics, Gymnastics and Dance.

‘Active Flag’



Knockaderry strives to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The Active Schools initiative aims to get more schools, more active, more often. Knockaderry received its first active flag in 2017 and has maintained an active school ever since.

Green Schools Committee



Green-Schools is an international environmental educational programme that promotes long-term, whole school action for the environment. In Knockaderry Farranfore N.S. we pride ourselves in having four flags achieved and are working towards a flag for ‘Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste’. The Green Schools Committee is a student body where each class from 4th – 6th Class is represented and who meet and work towards achieving each “Green Flag.”



Student Council

Our Student Council was set up in 2022 to encourage the participation of our pupils in the decision making and running of our school. This Student Council is a way for pupils to learn about decision making, problem solving and democracy. It consists of student representatives from 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th class. These pupils will be representatives of their class.

Gardening



Knockaderry is fortunate to have a lovely garden space to the rear of the school. We have wonderful, committed parents who volunteer their time and energy in creating a lovely learning environment for the children. If you have some free time to help with the garden or other activities, please contact the school. We very much appreciate the support that parents give.

Subjects

The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the provision of education for children in Ireland. The curriculum is divided into seven curricular areas

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



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Homework

Homework is a bridge between home and school. It allows the parent to be involved in the child's learning and allows the child show what they have learned. It should be



a special time between parent and child when the school day is discussed. There is no homework on weekends.

Please see our [Homework Policy](#) for full details.

Behaviour

We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. We expect that all children will follow the Code of Behaviour. All staff and visitors must also follow this code of behaviour. Bullying is not acceptable in our school.

We like to affirm our students. There will be class rules and the children will have an input. Sanctions will be utilised for misbehaviour. All children will misbehave at some stage during school life, but if there is an ongoing issue regarding misbehaviour, parents will be informed.

Please see our [Code of Behaviour and Anti- Bullying Policies](#) for full details.

Ways in which you can prepare your child for school:

1. Talk about school, concentrate on the positive aspects of school, such as the friends your child will make and the activities they will do such as painting, making jigsaws and going on trips. Ask them about their day. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in

school as often they don't realise that they are learning. Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.

2. Give your child an input into their school life such as buying a new school bag, pencil case, new school shoes.
3. Practice nursery rhymes at home and read some well-known fairy tales. Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence. Reading readiness is the key skill to introduce your child to the mechanics of reading, reading direction, the conventions of writing, awareness of text and most importantly nurturing a motivation to read and a love for books.
4. Play helps a child develop motor skills, oral language skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills in order to establish friendships. Games such as snap, matching, jigsaws, etc., have much educational value.
5. Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be traumatic and exciting, and also very tiring.
6. Each morning, try not to stay too long in the classroom. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you have developed your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into the school. If there are any concerns, we will contact you.
7. Encourage independence where your child hangs up their own jacket, carries in their own bag and takes down their own chair.



8. Limit television viewing, especially before your child comes to school and before they go to bed.
9. Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.
10. Become involved in school life!



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Remember, schools are happy places! Let your child have fun and enjoy school. Children learn long term social skills at school that will impact their adult life.



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”Tell me and I’ll forget;
Show me and I may remember;
Involve me and I’ll understand.”

(Chinese Proverb)