

Healthy Eating Policy

We are a 'Health Promoting School' and encourage healthy eating at all times. Fizzy drinks are not permitted and children are not permitted to bring crisps, bars and sweets to school, with the exception of Friday, when children can bring a small treat to enjoy at lunchtime. The school is a 'nut free' zone to cater for children with allergies.

Mini Credit Union

Our Mini Credit Union will provide an opportunity for your child to develop the habit of regular saving for that 'Rainy Day' and is run in conjunction with Ardee Credit Union. Perhaps someday, your son/daughter may represent our school in the annual Credit Union Quiz!

Green School Status

We are very proud of our Green School Status, awarded by An Taisce for Environmental Excellence. Our first Green Flag was raised by President McAleese in April 2002. Since then, we have been awarded 10 Green Flags in total and won numerous other awards. Our Environmental Committee, with pupils from 1st-6th classes is very active. They encourage recycling and energy and water conservation. They seek to develop awareness of and care for our environment locally, nationally and worldwide. Our school has beautiful grounds and gardens and a newly developed polytunnel where classes grow and harvest their own vegetables.

Parents Association + BOM

We are fortunate to have a very supportive Parents' Association who meet regularly to support the work of our school. There are also 2 parents' nominees on the school's Board of Management.



Catholic Ethos

During your child's time in our school, his/her faith will be nurtured in religion classes. The school chaplain maintains a strong link with the school, visiting classes, hearing confessions at Christmas and Easter and leading ceremonies to mark the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter. Your child will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Your child will also have the opportunity to become an altar server when in the senior classes of the school. While fostering a Catholic Ethos, our school is inclusive, welcomes and respects children of all faiths and none.

School Day

The school day begins at 9:20am. Children have two breaks throughout the day, 10:50-11:05 and 12:30-1:05pm. School finishes at 2:05pm for all infants. While your child's education is our number one priority in Monastery National School, we also strive to ensure his/her time at school is fun and enjoyable. We organise a range of events throughout the year to make your son/daughter's time in Monastery National School as memorable as possible. These include, GAA, soccer and badminton competitions, assemblies, Advent activities, carol services, Christmas concerts, seasonal activities, sponsored walks, quizzes, visiting book fairs and theatre groups, storytellers, mountain walks, annual sports days, fun days, ice cream trucks and our End of Year prize giving Assembly.

A copy of our Code of Behaviour and other policies are available on our school website. As a school community, we endeavour to work together to ensure your son/daughter receives a fulfilling and holistic education. All in all, we feel our school has a great deal to offer your child and look forward to welcoming him/her into the Monastery National School community.

If your wish to enrol you son/daughter with us for the coming year, please return the enclosed Enrolment/Admissions Form as soon as possible or contact our school secretary Anne Woods on 041-6853641 or email officeardeemns@gmail.com

Monastery N.S., Ardee



Your child is now approaching the end of his/her time in preschool and is ready to enrol in primary school. As you make this important decision, we would like to tell you what Monastery National School has to offer...

In September 2022, we will have two small infant classes.

This gives your child the best possible start to his/her education. Emphasis is put on play through our *Aistear* programme which helps develop your child's social and emotional skills and helps him/her build lasting friendships for their time in our school. Each class is also supported by a second support teacher.

We are extremely fortunate to have one of the largest school campuses in Co. Louth. In August 2008, our school underwent a complete renovation and a new spacious wing was constructed. All of our classrooms and SEN rooms were updated and furnished to a modern standard which we are constantly maintaining and improving upon. **Each classroom has its own separate toilet for boys and girls.**

Our large school gym allows us to foster your child's athletic and artistic talents. We constantly update our sporting equipment to ensure every child finds an activity which interests him/her. The gym can also be transformed into a theatre and our *Parents Association* have purchased a new professional modular stage, spotlights and sound system to develop your child's dramatic talents in our many school performances held throughout the academic year.

Modern Classrooms

Our large and spacious classrooms have been designed to take full advantage of natural light. All classrooms use separate doors to enter / exit the school building. Each classroom has its own separate toilet facilities for boys and girls. All classrooms have state of the art HD Interactive Panels, fibre broadband and shared access to a suite of modern laptops and iPads. Our two infant classrooms are located next to each other with access onto their own enclosed yard area. Our large school gym is used by all classes on a rota basis. It is also home to our magnificent Christmas Concert which sees hundreds of parents descend on our doors every December!

Yard Areas

The safe and secure Infant Yard has been lined for games and has its own Go Kart track and soft surface playground equipment. The senior yard has been lined for games and has fixed goalposts and basketball fixtures provided. Children can also relax with their classmates at picnic tables beside our apple trees! Our large school field is the envy of every school in Louth. During dry weather our pupils spend their break-times relaxing on the

grass and playing with their friends. We have recently constructed a beautiful nature walk around the field boundary which weaves in and out through our mature Oak and Chestnut trees.



School Staff

At Monastery National School, we can offer your child a school environment where he/she will feel safe, secure and comfortable as he/she begins their primary school education.

Our infant teachers are highly experienced and will ensure your child has positive memories of their first days in the 'Big School'.

At present, there are 16 full time teachers on our staff, an administrative principal, 10 class teachers and 5 support teachers. We also have 5 Special Needs Assistants who support our children both in the classroom and on the yard. Our mixed gender staff have considerable experience in the teaching of boys and girls and will ensure that your child develops to the best of their ability throughout their time in Monastery National School.

Our school motto '*Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí* (*Praise Youth and It will Grow*) is at the core of our school philosophy. We believe in building self-esteem through encouragement and recognition. We strive to develop all areas of your child's potential as is evident from the four quadrants of our school crest, *academic, artistic, sporting and spiritual*.

Support Teachers

We are extremely fortunate to have 5 support teachers to supplement your child's learning if required. If your son / daughter finds reading or maths difficult, he/she may attend one of our support teachers, who will assess what additional supports may be needed. Then in consultation with parents / guardians and your child's class teacher, an individual programme will be developed to support him / her.

A considerable amount of support also takes place through '*team teaching*'. This involves the support teacher working in class, alongside the class teacher to supplement the teaching of literacy and numeracy.

A 21st Century School

Our school is a centre for 21st century teaching and learning. As technology is constantly being updated, we strive to evolve and ensure our students have access to all new and modern teaching and learning techniques. Much of our teaching is interactive through our HD Interactive Panels and children regularly use our suite of laptops and iPads to research work and complete projects. Our junior classes have access to the latest educational software to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. All children have access to *MNS Google Classroom* or *MNS Seesaw* to complete class and homework activities online.

ICT and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Maths) is fostered throughout your child's time in Monastery National School. Students complete robotics and STEM projects at different stages in their education in our school.

Music and Sports

Monastery National School has a proud musical and sporting tradition.

Your son / daughter may join our *Traditional Music Group*, learn the recorder or join the *School Choir* who perform at the Annual Peace Proms in either Dublin or Belfast.

He / She will also take part in our annual Christmas Concert where two evening performances and a mid-day matinee ensures that every parent and grandparent have the opportunity to attend.

Our teachers regularly organise lunchtime basketball, soccer and badminton leagues with emphasis on teamwork and respect at the forefront of each game. External coaches regularly visit the school to teach GAA and Rugby skills. As your child reaches the senior classes, he/she will have the opportunity to avail of swimming lessons. Buses are organised and lessons are taught by experienced swim teachers in AURA Leisure Centre in Dundalk.

Our school also caters for your child's social and personal development. This is fostered through our SPHE curriculum, school assemblies and every day, as part of our positive school culture.