

Scoil Mhaoilíosa, Knockavilla, Upton, Co. Cork

Roll No.04152T

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*Principal: Kathleen Lowney, B.Ed., A.D.A.E.S., M.Ed*



*Deputy Principal: Claire Falvey*

*Chairperson Board of Management: Nancy O Donovan*

# Mission Statement

**Scoil Mhaoilíosa is a co-educational, catholic, primary school which strives to provide a caring, happy and secure atmosphere for every child.**

**It is a place where we strive to nurture and support children in fulfilling their potential in an environment of mutual respect and trust between pupils, teachers, parents and ancillary staff.**

**While our ethos is primarily catholic, due recognition and respect is engendered for all religions.**

**Scoil Mhaoilíosa strives to promote the professional and personal development of teachers and ancillary staff through professional development programmes. This promotes the concept of life-long learning.**

**We welcome the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in the Cairdeas Parents' Association.**

**We endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage the development of personal responsibility.**

**Scoil Mhaoilíosa promotes the concept of gender equity.**

**Déanaimid gach iarracht ár ndúchas a chothú trí atmasféar ghaelach sa scoil.**

## *A Message from the Principal*

*Scoil Mhaoilíosa is located on a picturesque site overlooking the historic Upton Valley. Cnoc an Bhile means the “Hill of the Sacred Tree”, and it is a fitting site for our school which seeks to nurture our greatest treasures: our children.*

*The current building was built in 1973 and prior to that the school was housed in the building which is now the Parish Hall. Indeed many of the past pupils have fond memories of playing on the site of the current school.*

*In 2009 a large extension was completed in order to cater for the growing number of children attending our school. A further extension was begun in April and completed in August 2011. This development ensures that we will be enabled to provide the best facilities and accommodation for your children.*

*We are very proud of the service which we have provided over the years. Our dedicated and experienced staff works tirelessly to provide the very best and broadest education for all the children. Scoil Mhaoilíosa is well known for its pleasant ambience and the atmosphere of mutual respect which underpins all our activities.*

*The goodwill, support and assistance which we receive from you, the parents combined with the dedication of the staff and the willingness of the children ensures that we have a truly unique school.*

*Táimid an mhórálach as ar dteanga dúchais agus déanfaimid gach iarracht é a labhairt agus atmaisféar ghaelach a chothú ar fud na scoile.*

*I hope that you will find this booklet useful and informative and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school.*

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*Kathleen Lowney, Príomh Oide.*

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **STAFF**

Scoil Mhaoilíosa is a co-educational school. Currently we have five mainstream class teachers but this will be increasing to six classroom teachers in September 2014. We also have the services of two full-time Special Educational Needs teachers, three special needs' assistant, a part time secretary and caretaker. We also enjoy the services of a French teacher, a Speech and Drama teacher, a Gymnastics teacher, Tennis Coach and other visiting teachers.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Our accommodation consists of six mainstream classrooms, two special educational needs rooms, a staffroom, office and the use of the Parish Community Hall which is nearby for PE and other school activities. This accommodation has been greatly enhanced by two recent extensions. Our outdoor facilities are excellent with spacious hard core and grassy play areas for the children. We also have an enclosed ball court for sporting activities.

## **AIMS OF SCOIL MHAOILÍOSA**

The aim of our school is to provide a happy, caring, learning environment which enables (a) the child to live a full life as a child and to realise his/her potential as a unique individual, (b) the development of the child as a social being through living and co-operating with others thus contributing to the good of society, (c) the preparation of the child for further education and lifelong learning (d) the nurturing of each pupil's full, educational potential.

*The achievement of these aims informs all of the planning processes and activities which occur in our school.*

We will strive to help the pupils to “repudiate violence and destructive behaviour, to live and make decisions with justice and harmony, to respect differences in gender, race, beliefs and accepting others with their own peculiarities, to be tolerant; and to acquire attitudes leading to integration and harmony” – (European Commission 2004, P.10).

Teachers and parents are partners in the children's education, with co-operation and communication between home and school being vital ingredients in the educational process. We share the same aim - the well-being and the social, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual development of the children in our care.

*This prospectus has been produced with the express purpose of sharing information with parents concerning general school facilities and provisions. Should you decide to enrol your child in our school please complete the attached enrolment form and a more detailed brochure with policies, rules and routines will be issued to you before your child starts school.*

## **ROUTINES AND GENERAL INFORMATION**



### **SCHOOL DAY**

<b>9.20am</b>	<i>School Opens</i>
<b>11.00am-11.10am</b>	<i>Sos/Break</i>
<b>12.30pm-1.00pm</b>	<i>Lón/Lunch</i>
<b>2.00pm</b>	<i>Infant Hometime</i>
<b>3.00pm</b>	<i>School Closes</i>

### **UNIFORM**

School Uniform: White shirt, grey skirt/grey pinafore/grey trousers  
Green jumper/cardigan with school crest, school tie.  
Navy tracksuit with school crest. White polo shirt.

### **Supplier:**

Laura's Schoolware, Unit C1, Dosco Business Park,

South Douglas Road, Cork

021 4368210 email: buckleyschoolwear@eircom.net

### **BOOK RENTAL SCHEME**

A book rental scheme operates in the school for pupils of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. A fee is charged for this service but this is considerably less than the cost of purchasing books. Participation in the scheme is optional. A book rental scheme operates for English Reading Books for Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class. This is compulsory and a nominal fee is charged for the loan of these books for the year.

## PACKED LUNCHES



Scoil Mhaoilíosa is a Health Promoting School under the aegis of Health Service Executive and children are educated on the benefits of bringing a healthy lunch to school. A healthy eating policy operates in the school.

## SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Scoil Mhaoilíosa strives to achieve the overall aims of the Revised Curriculum (1999). These aims are:

- ✓ To enable the child to live a full life as a child and to realise his/her potential as a unique individual.
- ✓ To enable the child to develop as a social being through living and co-operating with others and so contribute to the good of society.
- ✓ To prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

## MUSIC



**Scoil Mhaoilíosa believes passionately in the unifying power of music in our lives.**

Musical activity challenges the child to act in unique ways to listen discerningly to his/her own music and the music of others, to sing, play or read sensitively and accurately and to evaluate critically.

In addition to following the principles of the three music strands of the primary School Curriculum: listening, composing and performing, many musical opportunities are afforded the pupils of Scoil Mhaoilíosa.

A *concert*, held at Christmas time, provides the children with a special public forum where they can develop a sense of occasion and a sense of audience. It is not meant to be a professional production and the concert content flows naturally from class music, visual arts and drama and dance. All children from Junior Infants to sixth class take part.

The pupils also sing and play instruments at our *Christmas Mass* and all other liturgical occasions. Senior pupils visit the Friendship Club at Christmas and perform a variety of Christmas Songs and Hymns. The pupils also get the opportunity during their time in Scoil Mhaoilíosa to take part in *Cór*

*Fhéile na Scól* – a Musical Festival held in the Cork City Hall every year and any musical or performing arts event which we deem would benefit the pupils.

Scoil Mhaoilíosa also participates in Scór na bPáistí in music, recitation, and the quiz. We have enjoyed considerable success over the years.

The children also perform for other classes in the school throughout the school year – giving the pupils the opportunity to perform or form the audience.

The children are also introduced to performance by professional musicians as opportunities arise, e.g. *Cork Pops Concert*, visits to *Opera* etc.



## GUITAR LESSONS

*Guitar* lessons are available in the school after school hours on two evenings per week.

## VISUAL ARTS



The six strands of the visual arts curriculum: drawing, paint, print, clay, construction, fabric and fibre are explored and through them the children are made aware of the elements of the visual world.

**\*Line \* Shape \* Form \* Colour and Tone \* Texture \* Pattern and Rhythm \* Space**

In addition, the pupils are encouraged to participate in various art competitions throughout the year.

## DRAMA



The pupils are involved in many activities through drama, including improvisation, role-play, co-operating with others and communicating to an audience. A Speech and Drama teacher provides classes from September to Christmas and the culmination of these classes is a school concert in which all of the pupils participate.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION, GYMNASTICS, TENNIS, SWIMMING, DANCING



Primary education aims to promote all aspects of a child's development i.e. the physical, intellectual, social and emotional. P.E. plays a crucial role in this process by helping each child to recognise and develop his/her own physical capabilities. The strands in the P.E. program are \* **Athletics** \* **Dance** \* **Games** \* **Outdoor activities** \* **Aquatics**.

Each of these strands is explored to its fullest potential here in Scoil Mhaoilfosa and in addition to Physical Education Classes the senior boys and girls participate in the **Sciath na Scol football and hurling** competitions. The school has won the Sciath na Scol – Football competition twice in the past three years..

The school has wonderful outdoor facilities with a hardcore ball court and spacious grassy areas for sporting and play activities.

A very experienced **Gymnastics** teacher visits the school once a week from September to February and those classes culminate in a Gymnastics display by all the pupils to which parents are invited.

A **tennis** coach provides lessons to the children between February and Easter.

The Parents Association, CAIRDEAS organises **swimming** classes for all the children in Brookfield Swimming Complex throughout the school year.

Scoil Mhaoilfosa is conscious of and actively promotes our heritage and **Irish Dancing** classes are provided each week from Christmas to Easter.

### **CHESS, Table Tennis**

Pupils play chess and table tennis.



### **SOCIAL, PERSONAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (SPHE)**

The SPHE programme encompasses the all round personal development of the child. It aims at giving children skills to deal with the changing, challenging world in which they live. It aims at helping children to become self-confident and develop self esteem. It focuses on developing the social skills of communication, co-operation and conflict resolution. It also aims to promote the personal development and well being of each child fostering in them a sense of respect for themselves and for others.

SPHE takes place in a number of ways in the school and the involvement of parents at all stages of the programme is essential for its effectiveness. Children learn through experiencing a positive school climate and atmosphere and by exploring aspects of the curriculum through relevant subject areas. It includes *the Stay Safe* and the *Substance Abuse Prevention* Programme.

### **GREEN SCHOOL/HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL**

We are proud to say that we have been awarded two **International Green School Flag** because of our environmental awareness, the control of litter and waste in our environment as well as energy awareness. We also run the **Health Promoting School Programme** as organised by the HSE. These two initiatives ensure that the children in our care are aware of the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles and making good choices regarding themselves, others and the world we live in.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



Scoil Mhaoilíosa is well equipped with computers and technology. Teaching and learning through ICT is actively encouraged and all teachers are proficient in the use of ICT for teaching and learning. All classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards to which all the children have access. The school is also well equipped with laptops and iPads. Children in the senior classes learn typing. Technology is used to promote research and presentation skills, language development and ownership of learning among the pupils. The school also studies *film* as an interesting medium and are given the opportunity to write and produce a film each year. **The school participates in the West Cork Film Festival every year. Over the past number of years our films have been shortlisted for the National FÍS Film awards and we have travelled to the Helix in Dublin for the Festival. We have also been shortlisted for the Fresh Film Festival in Limerick.**

**Scoil Mhaoilíosa was featured in The Sunday Independent Newspaper in September 2010 for its innovative use of ICT in the Primary School.**

Children in senior classes are involved in The Dissolving Boundaries Project, the aim of which is to promote good relations between Northern and Southern Ireland. It is a by-product of the Good Friday agreement and involves video conferencing, email contact and face to face meetings.

## SCHOOL TOURS



It is customary for all the classes to undertake an annual educational outing. These tours are age appropriate and  aim to give the children a wide variety of experience throughout their school lives.

## HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Frequent communication is of vital importance in developing and nurturing co-operation between home and school. In our school, communication between parents and teachers is facilitated in the following ways:

- Individual consultation: by appointment
- Parent/teacher meetings: November each year
- Written report cards: June each year
- Website: [www.knockavillaschool.com](http://www.knockavillaschool.com)
- Text-a-Parent facility

## **PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The Department of Education & Science has a system in place to cater for pupils with special educational needs. We currently have a teaching allocation, based on enrolment, to meet the needs of pupils with learning difficulties and mild general learning disabilities. Every effort is made to enable full participation by all pupils in the curriculum through early intervention strategies and team teaching.

**In addition we have an option to apply for extra teaching resources** for individual pupils with more serious learning disabilities. A Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) based in West Cork Education Centre processes individual applications for children who have been assessed by an educational psychologist, eg. A psychologist from the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS).

The school is *wheelchair friendly* and is well equipped with ramps and disability toilets.

Parents of pupils with identified special education needs should discuss available support with the Principal.

## **CODE OF DISCIPLINE**

**Any form of behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.**

**For this reason a code of discipline and an anti-bullying policy is in existence within the school and will be made available to parents/guardians upon enrolment.**

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION



While our ethos is primarily catholic, due recognition and respect is engendered for all religions.

The pupils receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion when they are in Second Class, and they receive Confirmation when they are in Sixth Class. The preparation of the children for sacraments is a shared responsibility for pupils, teachers, parents and parish clergy.

On certain occasions throughout the school year, the children may participate in prayer services - Penitential Services or a class Mass.

## THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



The Board of Management is made up of:

1. 2 direct nominees of the Patron (Bishop of Cork and Ross).
2. 2 parents of children enrolled in the school (one mother, one father elected by parents of children enrolled in school).
3. The principal teacher.
4. One other teacher elected by teaching staff.
5. Two extra members proposed by (1) and (4) above.

**The B.O.M. is responsible for the direct governance of the school.**

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Our Parents Association, Cairdeas, organises fundraising activities and buy items eg. Extra books, gymnastic equipment etc. which benefit pupil's in the school. An annual contribution per family (currently €50.00) is required to fund these activities.

CAIRDEAS organises **swimming** classes for all the children in Brookfield Swimming Complex throughout the school year.

Cairdeas also organises the Book Rental Scheme.

Parents are encouraged to become involved in the school and the children benefit greatly from the many talented parents who give of their time in the areas of gardening, art, flower arranging, cooking etc.

Being a member of B.O.M. or Officer in Cairdeas takes time and commitment so it is important that Parents are willing to volunteer for these positions at some stage during their children's time in school. In this way, more people will be taking very active roles in the educational partnership.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

As stated at the outset of this booklet – **Teachers and Parents are partners** in the **children's** education, with **co-operation and communication** between home and school being vital ingredients in the educational process. We hope that all pupils will develop both educationally and socially in our school and that it will be a stimulating, happy, healthy and pleasant place for pupils, staff, parents, management and the wider community.

We hope that this booklet will be of assistance to you in choosing a school for your child. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Applications for enrolment are accepted during the month of February each year. Application forms are available on the school website or by emailing or phoning the school.

**More detailed information will be issued to you on enrolment and an open day for incoming pupils will be held in June.**

***“Déanann Dícheall Gaisce”***