

Contacts

Address: Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál B,

Glasheen Boys' Primary School,

School Avenue, Glasheen, Cork..

Telephone/Fax: 021-4544750.

E-mail: office@glasheenboys.com

Website: www.glasheenboys.com

Twitter: @glasheenboys

Principal: Michael Daly

School Secretary: Sheila Macilwraith

Home School Liaison: (Telephone) 086-3998613.

Useful Publications:

HSCL Booklet, available from the Home School Community Liaison Teacher.

Type into 'google': hse publications caring for my child. This will lead you to publications for parents on caring for your child at different age levels.

Feel free to contact the school if we can be of any further help or information.

(The information in this booklet was correct at the time of writing. Changes may have occurred since then. We will do our best to keep the booklet updated for you).

Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál (Buachaillí).

GLASHEEN BOYS' SCHOOL

SCHOOL AVENUE,

GLASHEEN, CORK

Tel/Fax: 00 353 21 4544750

Email: office@glasheenboys.com

Welcome Booklet for New Parents



(Last Updated, May 2016)

We are a **Digital School** Of Excellence, a **Green Flag** School,

A **Health Promoting** School, a **Yellow Flag** School.

We have an **Active School** Flag & a **European** Blue Flag.

Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone in our school community, I would like to extend a [very warm welcome](#) to you and your child/ children, to **Glasheen Boys' School**, which is also called Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál.

I look forward to [working with you](#) to ensure that the years your son/s will spend at our school will be productive and enjoyable.

We take [great pride](#) in the standard of education, care and attention we offer our pupils.

We have [excellent staff](#), tremendous [support structures](#), [various initiatives](#) and [top class facilities](#) in our school.

I encourage you to read this booklet and I look forward to [working with you](#) and your child, in the years ahead. We are honoured that you have entrusted your son into our care and are delighted that your family is to become part of Glasheen School Community.

Michael Daly (Principal).

Email: office@glasheenboys.com

[Website](#): Our website contains much helpful information, as well as a 'Twitter' feed, with up to date news.

The structures we have in place in Glasheen Boys' School are to ensure the productivity, learning, happiness and safety of each child.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Booklet. We hope you found it informative, helpful and welcoming.

If we can be of any further help, support or information, be sure to contact us, using the details overleaf.

Michael Daly (Principal)

Sheila MacÍlwraith (School Secretary)

(Home School Community Liaison Teacher)

Damian Ryan (HSCL Until June 2016)

Carol Constant (HSCL From August 2016)

Reason for this Booklet

- Toilet Accidents: When coming to school, it is important that children would be as independent in the bathroom, as possible. We would ask parents to practise the bathroom routines at home. In the event of a toilet 'accident', it is important that the parents have signed the permission slip, allowing a staff member, in the presence of another adult, to assist the child, in private. Otherwise parents will be contacted to do the needful.
- Uniform:
Junior Infants wear the full school track suit with polo shirt only. All other class levels wear the tracksuit and polo shirt on P.E. days and the school uniform on the other days.

The School Uniform (Jumper & Tie) is available from Tom Murphys, Patrick Street, while the School Tracksuit can be purchased in Laura's Schoolwear, Dosco Commercial Park, South Douglas Road, Cork.

This booklet has been put together to welcome you to our school community and help you & your son to settle in your new school. The booklet outlines some of the initiatives underway in our school. Our school plans & policies comprehensively explain the workings of the school. They are available to parents on request. Additional information and **several school policies are also available on our School Website**.

Communication

We at Glasheen believe in **Good Communication** between Home & School. We like to keep all members of our school community informed through our Text-a-Parent service, Notes & regular Newsletters. Our School Website, School Twitter, School Facebook page, as well as Internal & External Notice Boards also communicate important messages and information to parents. We arrange a **helpful meeting with the teachers and principal, for all Junior Infant Parents, each September**. Helpful information is also given to parents from all other classes, in the first month of the school year.

If you would like more information on how your child is getting on, or if you would like to share information

relevant to the child's home life that could impact on school work, we encourage you to [talk to the class teacher](#). If your child has any particular difficulties, it is important to [let us know](#), as soon as possible, so that we can organise the support that is necessary.



On occasions, very young children [can exaggerate, change, misunderstand](#) or even [invent stories](#). To avoid any unnecessary worry or upset, if you are in any doubt, please talk with the class teacher.

[Making an appointment](#) through the school secretary is an excellent way of organising a meeting with the class teacher, as it is [time efficient](#), your son's teacher will be able to give you his/her [full attention](#) and [supervision](#) can be arranged for your son's class.

There is a [Parent/Teacher Meeting](#) before the end of Term 1.

All communication in Glasheen school between parents and teachers is for the benefit of the child. In Glasheen School, the parents and teachers are [partners in the education](#) of the child. Good communication is the key to success. It helps us to work together and to reach our destination happily, together.

- [Socialisation](#): Children change seats every month to promote socialisation amongst the children. In this way everyone knows each other at the end of the year.
- [Supervision](#): Supervision begins in the school yard at 8.30 a.m. Again we ask that parents leave the child with his peers and the supervising teachers in the morning time, rather than staying for a while. This is helpful, as it avoids building up attachments that could lead to separation anxiety.
- On wet days supervision takes place indoors in the junior building for infant classes and in the School Hall for 1st.—6th. Classes. Weather permitting, all children also have two supervised playtime breaks, each day, in the school playground.

7. Never run in the classrooms, stairs or corridors. When going up or down the stairs, pupils must walk on the right hand side in single file.

8. Leave mobile phones at home. Pupils can make contact or be contacted, in an emergency, through the school office.

9. Not wear earrings or any other jewellery that could pose a danger to themselves or others.

- School Bag: The school bag should be big enough for large books, easy to open/close and to recognise. School bag and books remain in school for the first day, and most books are stored in the school. For safety, bags with wheels are not appropriate for Junior Infants.
- School Completion Programme (SCP): Glasheen is fortunate to have the services of the School Completion worker in our school. This member of staff helps prepare all children for the transfer from sixth class to secondary school. SCP also helps some children, through various activities, to further enjoy their school life.

School Vision

Glasheen Boys' School aims to create a school culture where each child is supported in his development academically, physically, emotionally, socially & spiritually. This is achieved in our school by parents and teachers working together in a spirit of partnership, mutual respect and understanding.

Moving from Home to School

(For Parents of Junior Infants)

The first day of Primary School is a big day for the children and their families. It is a change, but it is a healthy and natural change. The movement from home to school is a positive step towards increased independence for the child. It should be embraced by the parent, as much as possible, as an opportunity for their child to grow and learn, even if there is a natural sadness in letting go of some child/parent contact time.

Teachers are friendly, respectful and professional. They are skilled in caring for your child. So please feel reassured!

Many children will have attended play school already. Most children starting school have learned to share things and to tidy away toys at home. Others have stayed with a friend or relative for a number of hours, without the parent being there. In these ways the child has developed skills to prepare him to begin primary school.

When the parent is dropping the child off on the FIRST DAY, there is a very natural temptation to stay and watch, as your child settles in. This is not recommended. The longer you stay in the school, the harder it will be for the child to understand that you have to leave. Here are some very useful, tried & tested tips for parents on the first morning:

- Expect everything to go well.
- Expect a friendly, respectful and professional teacher.
- Explain to the child beforehand about the routine of the school day, so that he knows what will happen.
- Be happy and positive about the change when explaining about school to your child (even if you are feeling slightly apprehensive about it yourself!).
- Assure him that you will be back later to collect him.
- Give a hug & make a swift getaway, as soon as the opportunity arises.

Rules of the school:

The rules are in place to ensure the safety of all. The rules are written inside the cover of the school journal and are to be read, signed and understood by each child from first class upwards in the presence of a parent/guardian. The rules are:

Pupils should:

1. Be kind and respectful towards their fellow pupils, teachers, school staff and all adults within the school.
2. Report bullying or rough play in the classroom or yard to the class teacher or principal.
3. Never leave the school during school hours without the permission of the principal/deputy principal. Any pupil leaving the school during the school day, must be collected and signed out by a parent/guardian.
4. Wear the full uniform (tracksuit with polo shirt on P.E. days).
5. Bring a note following absence.
6. Have the school journal signed regularly by parents.



- **Religious Education**: Glasheen Boys' School is an inclusive Catholic school, that has a very warm and genuine welcome for all, regardless of their religious or cultural background. Pupils are prepared for First Penance/Holy Communion and for the Confirmation.
- **Road Safety**: Please be careful if dropping off and collecting children by car. Please do not park on the double yellow lines outside the school or inside the cones by the entrance to the school car park.. To ensure safety, **No pedestrians should enter or walk through the School Car Park or through the Car Park Gate**
- **Rubbish**: All children are required to take all leftovers, papers and their lunch waste home, each day.

- If the child is upset (which may sometimes happen), **do not show your own distress**. Reassure the child and then leave, as quickly as possible. Check back later if you wish, when calm will almost certainly be restored. The teacher will be there to help and support you with this.

MOST IMPORTANTLY— TRUST THE SCHOOL

Guideline Timetable for Junior Infants

(Each parent gets an official timetable each year, as start dates and times may vary).

Day 1:

School starts at **10.00 a.m.** & finishes at **11.30 a.m.**

Weeks 1 & 2:

School starts **8.50 a.m.** & finishes at **12.00 noon**

Remainder of the year for Junior & Senior Infants:

School starts at **8.50a.m.** & finishes at **1.30 p.m.**

1st—6th Classes

School starts at **8.50 a.m.** & finishes at **2.30 p.m.**

Your Child's Learning

Your child will be enabled to learn about, cultivate and foster **positive values and attitudes**. Your child will be taught in a manner that promotes self-esteem. There will be many opportunities to succeed, enabling the child to grow in confidence. The boys will be encouraged to learn from mistakes and **wherever possible the primary focus will be on the positive aspects of the child's behaviour.**

Learning Skills

In Glasheen Boys' School, your son will be encouraged to learn the following skills:

- **Motor Skills**: The boys will practise using their hands in creative and active ways e.g. with plasticine, paints, crayons and pencils etc. This helps them to develop the hand/eye co-ordination necessary for writing.
- **Visual Perception Skills**: The boys will be matching, sorting & becoming more aware of shapes & patterns.
- **Memory Skills**: Your child will be enabled to recall learning done in class through rhyme & repetition.

- **Policies**: The school has policies to ensure the smooth running of the school. Parents are invited to partake in policy formation and review. The school website and our noticeboards contain many of our school policies. All policies are also available, to be viewed, on request.
- **Pre-Schools** in the area include an excellent Playschool on campus. Please contact Mary @ 087-6357729, for details on availability of places. There are many other playschools in the area, also, with whom we enjoy excellent co-operation.
- **Reading**: Our school has excellent reading initiatives including Jolly phonics, Literacy lift-off, Reading Recovery, a tremendous selection of libraries & so on.



- **Parent/Teacher Meetings:** A Parent/Teacher meeting takes place in the first term each year. We also provide a written report in mid-June. If you need to pass on information, drop in books, collect your child early etc., **please go to the office** and the message will be passed on, at a less disruptive time such as at break time. Thank you for your co-operation. If you wish to meet a teacher at another time, feel free to telephone the school, so we can arrange a suitable time.
- **Personal Items:** Please label all personally owned items wherever possible, especially school uniform, coats, tracksuits and jumpers, with your child's name.
- **P.E.:** Junior Infants wear the school tracksuit all week and so, will always be ready for P.E. In all other years the school tracksuit is worn on P.E. days only. On the other days of the week (non-P.E. days), the school uniform is worn from Senior Infants—6th Class.
- **Permission Slips:** Rather than sending out notes for every eventuality, parents/guardians are given a general consent form, at the start of the school year. Parents/Guardians can give their consent, as they see appropriate.

Learning: **Oral/Spoken Language**

Your child will be encouraged to talk, expand his vocabulary and further develop his language, at many times throughout the day. The more a child talks, the better he becomes at expressing himself. As the child improves his oral language skills, he becomes prepared for engagement with the written word.

Learning: **Reading**

Initially the child will develop pre-reading skills e.g. motor skills, visual perception skills & oral language skills. After this time, the child will gradually be introduced to reading in a measured and calm manner. The learning process is not rushed, so as to ensure the child will have feelings of enjoyment and success when reading. If the child has a good early experience of the written word, then there's a much better chance that he will enjoy books throughout his life.

Learning: **Writing**

Children often start off by scribbling but gradually move on to writing letters with crayons and pencils. Lower case (not capitals) are taught first, so as not to confuse the children. The boys are encouraged to hold the pencil correctly and to adopt a good writing posture.

Learning: **Maths**

The children will learn about:

Matching, sorting, counting, numbers, colours & identifying patterns at Junior Infant level. Use is made of everyday tasks and real life examples are used to explain these concepts. How many spoons do I have?

Learning: **Gaeilge (Irish)**.

Young children love learning Irish. At 4 or 5 years of age the child is often like a sponge for new words & languages.

Advice for Parents helping their child to Learn

- Have a positive attitude whenever possible about school, teachers and all subjects. This positivity rubs off on the children and motivates them to succeed. (If, by any chance, something happens that creates negativity, please come into the school immediately, to discuss and resolve the situation.) **Never say**, 'I was never any good at English/Irish/Maths/P.E./Music myself', as **children will assume they will automatically fail in that particular subject**. Always BE POSITIVE.
- Be enthusiastic about school. Be on time in the mornings and afternoons and become as involved in the school and the child's work, as you can. Arriving consistently late for school means that your child has to join the class when it is already underway. He also

- **Homework Journals**: Glasheen Homework Journals are used by 1st - 6th Classes.
- **Interactive Whiteboards**: Each class in Glasheen has an interactive whiteboard, which allows teachers to use the latest innovative technology to facilitate and stimulate the child's learning.
- **Lunch**: Our school provides healthy lunches for all our pupils, with a choice of sandwiches/rolls, a piece of fruit and a drink. This service is free of charge and optional. Further details will be provided once the child starts school.
- **Notes**: Please check your child's bag everyday in Junior Infants for notes home.
- **Notice Boards**: Helpful information is available on our School Notice Boards in the school and outside, in the playground & at the entrances to both buildings.
- **Parents Association**: A tremendous Parents' Association exists in Glasheen Boys' School. Parents help the school in many ways through the association and are taking a very active role in their children's education, through their participation also. New members are always welcome to come and join in. The A.G.M. is held in September, each year.



- **Expenses**: 50 euro. The revised curriculum results in a considerable amount of photocopying and paper being used. Insurance is also available for each child, which offers 24 hour cover for one full year.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities** and some in school activities: Guitar, School Band, Speech & Drama, Irish Dancing, City Music College, Taek-Won-Do, Quizzes & a huge variety of Sports. Details of these activities are available from secretary Ms. Sheila Macilwraith.
- **Girls' School**: We share a very close working relationship and our campus with the Girls' School.
- **Green Schools**: Our school is receiving its **5th. Green Flag** for Biodiversity. We already have Flags for Recycling/Litter, Energy Awareness, Water Conservation & Travel.
- **Health Promotion**: Glasheen is a Health Promoting School, as recognised by the HSE. Each year we promote events to focus the boys' attention on their physical and mental health e.g. through friendship weeks, skipping demonstrations, Active Schools Week, Breakfast Club, lessons on healthy eating and lifestyle.
- **Homework Club**: Runs from Monday - Thursday, after school, from 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

misses the social/ settling in period of the day.

- **Be patient with the child**. Each child learns at different rates. Sometimes what seems extremely easy for us as adults, could be tricky for young children. Be patient with your child and arrange to meet the class teacher, about any concerns you may have.
- **Read to your child for fun**.
- Go through **picture books**.
- Give your child responsibility for **small jobs** around the house.
- Allow the child to **wash and dress himself**.
- **Play** with plasticine, jigsaws, shapes, crayons, pencils, construction toys, dinkies and action figures, with your child.
- **Talk to your child** as you do things (cook, drive) and play. Explain things to your child. Not only does the child learn about what you are talking about, they also feel respected, grow in confidence and soak in new vocabulary.
- Sing songs and recite rhymes together.
- **Avoid allowing your child to spend too much time on computer games/screens/watching television**.



Special Educational Needs

If required, there is excellent Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in Glasheen Boys' School. Special Educational Needs Teachers, help boys who may experience difficulties on their learning journey through school. Some boys may have mild difficulties in the areas of maths and literacy, for a short period of time. These boys will get a chance to work in smaller groups with an SEN teacher for a set time per week, until the difficulty is alleviated. Very occasionally, some boys may have more significant needs. In these cases, the boys are allotted more support, so that every opportunity is given to each child to reach the highest academic level possible.

Occasionally, a class teacher or SEN teacher may be concerned about the rate at which a child is learning. In this case, the parents/guardians will be contacted. As mentioned earlier in the **communication** section (Page 3), it is important to realise that the communication is made, with the child's interest at heart, and that the parent is viewed as a partner in the education of the child. When parents know you that we are doing all we can to support your son, when there is good co-operation & understanding between home and school, then the outcome will almost certainly improve.

- Contact Details: It is vital that the school has your contact details. If you change your mobile number, phone number or address, please inform the school, so that we can contact you, if/when necessary.
- Crayons: The chubby type are best for small hands.
- Curriculum: The full Primary Curriculum as outlined by the Department of Education & Skills is taught, which entails the following subjects:

English

Irish

Maths.

Social, Environmental & Scientific Education:

History, Geography, Science.

Art, Music, Drama.

Physical Education (P.E.).

Social, Personal & Health Education

Religious Education.





- **Communication**: Our school issues regular newsletters, sends texts to parents with reminders, constantly updates news on our School Website, Twitter Feed, Facebook Page & Notice Boards.
- **Competitions**: We at Glasheen understand that everyone is a winner in their own unique way. We have a very healthy attitude towards competition and it is serving us well, as we have won many events in the last number of years, including the Barber Cup (Tennis), several Sciath na Scol Finals (Hurling & Football), Eco Unesco (Environmental Awards), Port of Cork, EBS Awards (Handwriting), Various Art Awards, to name but a few. We also have an incredible record of Cork, Munster and **All-Ireland Quiz successes**.
- **Comprehension**: Currently in Glasheen we are using a well-tested and innovative approach to understanding what we read (comprehension). It is called 'Bridges To Understanding'. There is a whole school approach to the initiative with children participating at their own level from Junior Infants to Sixth class. Each class will work on developing strategies to help them to easily comprehend the written word, to make reading an easier and more enjoyable activity.

Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Teacher

The Home School Community Liaison Teacher is a teacher, who works in a full time capacity to liaise with parents. The HSCL organises courses and classes for parents, in-class activities for parents with the children, visits homes and is a point of contact for all parents, on all aspects of education and school life. The HSCL is always happy to meet new parents, so please come and visit him in his office, should you seek any information.

Until June 2016, our Home School Liaison Teacher is DAMIAN RYAN and his office is located in the main school playground of Glasheen Boys' School. CAROL CONSTANT is our HSCL from August 2016.

In-Class/Station Teaching

In Glasheen Boys' School, our Junior classes often learn in small groups within their class, where four teachers work together. We also use the Aistear Programme, where boys enjoy learning through structured play.

Helpful School Information A-Z

- **After School Club**: a limited number of places will be available for infants to be minded from 1.30pm to 6pm in the pre-school facility located in Glasheen School. Contact Lillian @ 087-6357729 for further information. Places are limited.
- **Attendance**: A note is necessary to explain absences. There is a legal obligation on the school to report absences of 20 days or over.
- **Behaviour**: Safety is most important. We encourage all boys to be very kind to one another and we strongly discourage any rough play. Our new play ground is a place of huge excitement and enjoyment for the boys. While there, the boys are very well supervised every day, by several adults. Sometimes boys can take a little time to adjust to the new routine. Some boys may not find break times as easy as the classroom setting. Others absolutely love it. Sometimes boys can misinterpret situations and may believe somebody is being mean. Staff are always very happy to check out any concerns and keep a very watchful eye, on an on-going basis. This helps to reassure everyone and establishes confidence.
- **Birthday Invitations**: To avoid disappointment for some children, we ask that birthday invitations are not handed out in class. In case of allergy, the same goes for cakes/food etc. All birthdays are celebrated by singing 'Happy Birthday!'.
- **Booklist**: The Junior Infant booklist is circulated in late May, while the lists for other classes are available in mid-June. Please label and cover your son's books.
- **Calendar**: The School Calendar for the coming school year is always available on our school website,
- **Clothes**: If you are buying shoes and coats along with the school tracksuit/uniform, try if possible, to buy easy to open and easy to close items. Velcro fasteners on shoes can be a good option, instead of laces.
- **Collection**: Parents must inform the teacher by written note or telephone if the child is to be **collected by any other person other than the parent/guardian** e.g. child minder/grandparent. This is particularly important if it is someone who does not usually collect the child. Also, if a parent/guardian needs to collect a child from class early, then he/she needs to **sign the child out in the office first.**

