



RE: First Year Students 2022-23

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope that this correspondence finds you well and we extend every best wish to you all for the summer ahead. It was really lovely to meet and chat with those of you who were able to attend our recent coffee morning and we so look forward to developing connections with our community of parents, in support of the young people enrolled for the coming year.

This week at Scoil Dara we are celebrating the graduation of our sixth-year students through a variety of events and gatherings and as we mark this significant gateway, we are aware of the journey that your sons and daughters will commence, as part of our community, this coming August. We look forward to welcoming our in-coming first year group and preparations focused on supporting the challenging transition from primary to secondary school have been underway for some time now.

We would like to share some important information and start-up procedures that will help prepare for the “first day of school”:

Confirmation of Student Place Forms: We invite you to access and complete the Confirmation of Student Place Form (CSP), available on our school website (Announcements Section). The form invites the selection of preferred option subjects for the Term 1 - Subject Taster Rotation, facilitating engagement with four option subjects in the lead up to the final nomination of two. Every effort will be made to accommodate student choice in this process however consideration regarding available resources and staff considerations may influence some outcomes. The opportunity to express a preference regarding the Modern Foreign Language choice for Junior Cycle is available through the form also. The CSP form also offers inclusion in the Book Support Scheme - a subsidised scheme supporting the payment for a selection of core texts over the 3-year span of the Junior Cycle. Other sections of the form explain the School Services Charge.

School Services Charge: The school has developed a range of services to support student progress and learning. These are an integral part of our whole-school, holistic provision promoting student organisation, academic progress, learning engagement, skill enhancement and social and personal development. The schedule of payments is referred to on the CSP form and school website. Payment of the school services charge (and all school payments) are made through the Easy Payment Plus platform accessed through our school’s website – www.scoildara.ie

Uniform and PE Top:

Girls Uniform	Boys Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine Crested School Jumper • White Shirt • School Kilt (knee length at minimum) • Trousers – Hunter 280 style • School Tie • Wine socks or tights • Black/brown footwear (plain). No obvious or coloured logos visible, no metal attachments, with a flat heel • School Jacket: Hunter ‘Norway’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey Crested School Jumper • Blue Shirt • Grey Trousers • School Tie • Black/brown footwear (plain). No obvious or coloured logos visible, no metal attachments, with a flat heel • School Jacket: Hunter ‘Norway’

The Scoil Dara uniform is a traditional emblem of inclusion in the community of our school. We are very proud of the community spirit it evokes, creating a conscious engagement with our pillar values: Growth, Community, Respect and Wisdom.

Our uniform suppliers are listed below:

- Books & Gifts - Kilcock Book Shop, Church St. Kilcock, Co. Kildare Tel: 01-6287106
- Uniform Warehouse 4 Finnerty House Dublin Road Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: 01-6289758
- Ted Murtagh, Haggard St., Trim, Co. Meath Tel: 046-9431792

PE Uniform: Scoil Dara introduced our crested PE uniform top in September 2021. For September 2022 this is a compulsory uniform item for all first and second year students for September 2022. Our PE top can be purchased from our supplier Grants at www.grantsclothing.ie. Grants will host a pop-up shop in the school on June 16th from 2-5pm, where tops can be purchased, and on-line orders can be collected. Tops can also be sized and fitted on the day. The new PE top has been a great addition to the school community and thank you for your continued support.

Meitheal Camps - Student Mentorship: Our Meitheal team is selected from our 5th year group through a process of application and interview and we are grateful for the support they offer our first year students as well as being grateful for their tireless service to our school community. The team commit to training and with the guidance of the pastoral team and the co-ordinator of student leadership – Ms. Doyle, they prepare and lead our summer induction camp for our in-coming first years. Many students refer back to these induction camps as one of the most prominent and positive memories of their early days at the school where the foundations of belonging and inclusion were realised. This year our Meitheal Camps will take place from Monday 22nd August – organised in half-day sessions for each group. Details of groupings and dates will be shared with families in early August.

Parents Association: We would like to invite parents and guardians to join our Parents Association, a central component in our link with the wider community of parents/guardians. The development of policies and education programmes, the identification of school initiatives and possible fund-raising projects is vital to the invigoration of our community purpose and we welcome the involvement of interested parents and guardians in the Scoil Dara parents association. If you have an interest in becoming involved please send an expression of interest to info@scoildara.ie (include your name and mobile number please)

Important Links: Connection and communication with our community of parents and guardians supports our work with students. Please contact the school regarding any questions or queries you may have and should you have relevant information which you wish to share with key personnel, working with your child, don't hesitate to contact us:

- Year Head to First Years – Ms. Dalgarno: isobeldalgarno@scoildara.ie
- SEN Co-ordinator – Ms. Kenny: clarekenny@scoildara.ie
- General contact: info@scoildara.ie

We invite you to access and review with your son/daughter the key policies supporting the safe and ordered operation of the school. These policies are available on the school's website and are also referred to in the Student Journal. We recommend that you refer to the support publication of the National Parents Council (NPC) regarding the move to secondary school (link included below)

- The National Parents Council - "Supporting Your Child's Move from Primary to Post Primary School"
<https://www.npc.ie/images/uploads/downloads/ChildMove.PDF>

For now, we take this opportunity to wish you the very best as your sons and daughters graduate from their respective primary schools. These special moments mark the key points of progress and growth toward a future that is yet to fully unfurl for each of them and we look forward to sharing many such important moments with them in the coming years.

Wishing you all the best for the summer holidays.

Sincerely,

D. Mc Cormack

Mr. D. Mc Cormack