

Dalystown National School
Dalystown, Mullingar.

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Follow us on **facebook**.

Principal: Charlie Moore

Deputy Principal: Maireád Dunbar



Information Booklet

2025/2026

Board of Management

The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school and is accountable to the Board for that management. The functions of the Board are set out in Section 15 of the Education Act, 1998. It “manages the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and their parents and to provide or cause to be provided an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility”.

Board of Management 2025

Chairperson:	Ms Eileen McCormack
Bishop's Nominee:	Rev. Fr. William Coleman
Teachers:	Mairéad Dunbar Charlie Moore
Community Nominees:	Eilish Balfe Fiona Berry
Parents Nominees:	Ronan Dunbar Aisling Kiernan

Parents Association

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic Parents Association. Our Parents Association meet regularly to discuss how they can support the work of our school. The Parents Association work in partnership with the school to help build a positive environment for all our children. They help organise social and family events, provide input and feedback from the parent body on school matters and raise much-needed funds. All parents are members of our school's Parents Association and are invited to attend meetings and offer support.

Dalystown National School

Calendar 2025/2026

- **School Re-opens:** Thursday 28th August 2025
- **Mid Term Break:** School Closed October 27th – 31st October 2025 Inclusive
- **Christmas Break:** School Closed December 22nd 2025 – January 2nd 2026 Inclusive
- **February Bank Holiday:** School Closed on February 2nd 2026
- **Mid Term Break:** School Closed February 19th and 20th 2026
- **St. Patrick's Day:** School closed on March 16th and 17th 2026
- **Easter Break:** School Closed March 30th – April 10th 2026 Inclusive
- **May Bank Holiday:** School Closed on May 1st and May 4th 2026
- **June Bank Holiday:** School Closed May 29th and June 1st 2026
- **Summer Holidays:** School closing on June 25th 2026

Information for Parents

School hours are as follows:

- **1st- 6th class:** 8.50am to 2.30pm
- **Infants Classes:** 8.50am to 1.30pm
- **Junior Infants** (Thurs 28th Aug – Friday 5th Sept inclusive) 8.50am to 12noon

School starts at **8.50am**. We encourage parents to drop their children to school as close to 8:50am as possible. When children arrive at the school, they are asked to line up in the school yard and wait for their teacher to collect them. The school insurance company request that parents be reminded that children who are left outside the school before that time are not covered by insurance. In the case of any accident, neither the Board of Management nor the teaching staff can be held responsible. For that same reason, children must be collected promptly at the end of the school day. If someone different is collecting your child from school, you must inform the teacher. Parents of children in the Junior and Senior Infants classroom should collect their children at 1.30pm sharp.

In the interest of the safety of all the children in the school, it is necessary to keep all entrances to the building locked during school hours. It is appreciated that this may cause some small inconvenience, but we believe you will agree that it is a small price to pay to try to ensure the safety and well-being of your children.

New locks were fitted to the doors some time ago which allows them to open from the inside although locked on the outside- therefore there is no danger should it be necessary to evacuate to the front door. This enables the door to be opened by the school secretary. If your child must leave the premises for any reason during school hours please send in a note or make prior arrangement with the teacher.

Forgotten lunches/property may be delivered during break time. Please leave these with the secretary as classes may not be disturbed. There are two 20 minute breaks during the school day 10.30-10.50 and 12.30 -12.50. Children are allowed time to eat their lunches in the classroom and are then free to play in the yard.

Children Leaving Early or Being Absent

Children are not permitted to leave the school or be taken from the school without permission from a teacher. If a child must leave early a note can be sent to the class teacher through Aladdin or by emailing the school. The Department of Education has instructed all schools, under the Education Welfare Act, to report any child who is absent for 20 days or more during the school year, to the School Education Welfare Officer. When your child is absent, we ask that parents record a reason for the absence on Aladdin. When your child has been absent for 20 days, the school will notify you. A note explaining reason of absence of any period must be given to the class teacher, as these now have to be kept on file for inspection. The Department of Education requires your co-operation in this matter.

Mobile Phones, Technical devices & toys

Mobile phones, technical devices & toys are intrusive and distracting and pupils are **not** permitted to bring them to school. Mobile phones, technical devices & toys are **not** allowed to be brought on school tours.

Curriculum

The following subjects are taught in the school:

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Visual arts - Art, Drama, Music
- SESE – History, Geography & Science
- Religious Education
- Physical Education

- SPHE (including Stay Safe Programme) R.S.E.

As well as fulfilling the Dept. of Education curricular requirements pupils at the school enjoy many additional activities including:

- Active School
- Discover Primary Science School (STEM)
- Dedicated computer lessons with laptops & tablets (Coding with Scratch, Scratch Jnr, Beebots and Microbits)
- FIRST LEGO League
- Say YES to Languages
- Music Generation including Tin whistle and Ukulele lessons
- Visiting GAA, Tag rugby, basketball and tennis coaches.
- Cumann na MBunscol
- Swimming lessons for children from 3rd to 6th classes.
- FoodDudes (Healthy Eating promotion).
- Incredible Edibles (School vegetable Garden)
- Participation in Credit Union Quiz, Fís Film Project, art and handwriting competitions
- Visiting performers and artists to inspire and inform.
- Projects and activities related to the Green Schools Programme.
- Trips to the theatre, activity centres, museums and other attractions.
- School is now connected to high-speed broadband
- Green School
- Blue Star Programme

Dalystown N.S. take part in the Daily mile – a walk (or even jog!) to help improve not only the children's' fitness, but also their concentration levels, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing. See <http://thedailymile.co.uk/> for more.

Please encourage your child to participate in all activities organised by school.

Homework

Pupils receive homework each day from Monday to Thursday. If a child finds undue difficulty with any aspect of their homework or takes much longer than the time suggested below to complete it, parents are advised to discuss the problem with the class teacher. Parents are asked to try to find time to look at their child's homework and sign the homework notebook when satisfied that all given homework has been completed to the best of his/her ability.

It is recommended that homework is done in a quiet place where there are no distractions. The following is a guide with regard to the time needed:

Junior Infants: 5 to 10 minutes

Senior Infants: 15 minutes

1st & 2nd class: 20 to 30 minutes

3rd & 4th class: 30 to 45 minutes

5th & 6th class: 40 to 60 minutes

Starting School

Your child's readiness for school will depend on maturity rather than age. Many 4 year olds are well able to cope while some five year olds have difficulty in adapting. However, we do recommend that children whose 4th birthday falls in June, July or August should consider waiting until they reach their 5th birthday. We try to make things easier for both parents and children by having New Pupils come in to meet the teacher and see their classroom before the school closes for the summer holidays in June. A child will be very excited about going to school and it is important that he/she gets off to a good start. To help Junior Infants settle into school at the beginning of the year, they will go home at 12noon for the first two weeks.

Children starting school should be able to:

- Put on and take off coats and hang them up
- Use the toilet, flush it properly and wash their hands
- Use a tissue

- Open and close their own schoolbag and lunchbox (keep this in mind when buying these items as some can be quite difficult to manage). The schoolbags also need to be big enough to hold an A4 book.

It is a good idea to play “pretend school” with your child and to check that they can do these things without help.

If your child requires support to complete any of the above, please arrange to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss.

Useful Tips to Help with The First Days

- ✓ Try to communicate a positive attitude to school by encouraging the child to look forward to the experience while remembering that school is much different from that which you might have experienced yourselves.
- ✓ Children are encouraged to express their feelings in a classroom with a relaxed, informal atmosphere. As communication is a vital part of the school day, it is essential that this is encouraged through conversation, rhymes, stories etc.
- ✓ On the first day let him/her take something familiar from home to bridge the gap between home and school. Have a short chat with the class teacher and emphasise to your child that you will collect him/her in a short while and then leave quickly and without fuss. Once you have left the classroom, do not turn back or stand outside the door. Don’t look in through the window as your child may see you and sense that you are worried.
- ✓ Some children are overawed by the situation and begin to cry. An upset child will usually stop crying after their parents leave and the teacher will quickly get them interested in some game or activity. Get to know the teacher as well as other parents and their children.

Hygiene

A special effort is made to ensure that a high standard of hygiene exists in the school. Water, liquid soap, electric dryers and tissues are

provided. All children should wash and dry their hands before eating lunch in their classrooms. Under no circumstances should they loiter or eat food in the toilet areas.

Please tie up long hair and check your child's hair regularly for outbreaks of head lice. If there is an outbreak of head lice all parents will be informed and asked to treat immediately.

Health and Welfare

The teachers are required to inform the Health Service Executive if they have any concerns regarding the welfare of any child in their care. Our Child Safeguarding Statement (Child Protection Policy) is available inside the main door.

Safety

Every effort is made to ensure that the school is a safe environment for all who attend or work here. The pupils are covered by two insurance policies - School Protection Policy paid by the BOM. Personal Accident Insurance paid by Parents/Guardians.

The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety skills programme taught to all primary school children. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations. The Stay Safe Parent information booklets are no longer available on hardcopy. Please visit www.staysafe.ie to download.

Lunch

All pupils receive a free hot meal free every day funded by the Department of Social Protection. Our supplier is the Lunch Bag. Each parent will be supplied with information on how to order their children's free hot meal. Pupils will also be supplied with a piece of fruit to eat during their small break. Please ensure that drinks are given in plastic containers with secure lids so that drinks do not spill in the bags and destroy your child's books. Chewing gum and lollipops are **not** permitted in the school. To cut down on the amount of waste produced pupils are asked to take home all uneaten food, food wrappers, plastic bottles etc.

Uniform

The uniform is compulsory at Dalystown N.S. It consists of a white shirt/t-shirt, royal blue jumper with crest, grey trousers/tracksuits bottoms and black footwear. Please refer to the uniform policy on our website for details.

Birthday Invitations

To avoid disappointment and upset to children, we would very much appreciate it if you could distribute birthday invitations outside school. We also ask parents not to bring in birthday cakes or treats etc. for the class.

Name Tags

Many children have similar coats that are often mislaid. It is important that name tags are put on these so they can be returned to the owners easily.

Booklists

The curriculum is the basis of planning for each class and a textbook supports learning and is one of many resources. The school has received funding to purchase school textbooks, work books, copies for all pupils to use.

Teachers work together to ensure that all strands of the curriculum will be covered over the child's duration in the school.

Home-School Communication

Our school uses Aladdin Connect. Aladdin Connect is a secure online platform that allows parents and guardians to access information about their children's education in primary school. It provides a way for parents to stay informed about their child's progress, communicate with the school, and manage certain administrative tasks.

For general information, updates and upcoming events the school will issue newsletters, notes and information through Aladdin Connect. It is important to regularly check your Aladdin Connect messages and emails for school notices.

Class teachers can be contacted by parents through their school emails. Please only contact teachers during their working hours.

- Ms. Tynan: ctynan@dalystownns.com
- Ms. Nally: lnally@dalystownns.com
- Ms. Monaghan: amonaghan@dalystownns.com
- Mr. Dunne: pdunne@dalystownns.com
- Mr. Moore: cmoore@dalystownns.com
- Ms. Dunbar: mdunbar@dalystownns.com

Julie Coyle, our secretary, is available from 8.30am to 12.30pm. You are welcome to phone the school during these times. If you need to meet with any member of staff, please ring and make an appointment.

We use Google Classroom / Seesaw for remote learning and assessment if required. We also celebrate our children's work and activities on Facebook.

Rewards

The school recognises that the children are usually well behaved and kind. Children's good behaviour and kindness will be rewarded. These rewards may include:

- Praise.
- Informing parents/guardian of good behaviour and kindness
- Stickers & Dojo points
- Homework pass
- Special treats chosen by the child e.g. extra computer time and certificates.
- Pupil of the Week Award

Voluntary Contribution

This year our school's Voluntary Contribution has been revised to reflect the increasing costs of day-to-day expenses in the school. The contribution helps to subsidise the cost of many school outings. These include, but are not limited to, the cost of Music Generation, Sports Coaching and PE equipment, iPads and Tablets, Readers, School Tours, Buses, School Events, parties and treats for the children.

€60.00 -1 child. €80.00 – 2 children. €100.00 – 3 children or more.

Arts and Crafts

€30.00 – Family. €15.00- 1 child.

All payments can be made through the School Aladdin EPayments

Mission Statement

Dalystown National School is a Roman Catholic School established with the Minister of Education and aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil, intellectually, physically, culturally, morally, and spiritually in a living relationship with God and other people.

The school promotes a philosophy of life by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catholic School provides Religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of pupils in the Catholic Faith.

In the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen