



BAREFIELD NATIONAL SCHOOL

STUDENT PROSPECTUS



THE MOTTO OF BAREFIELD NATIONAL SCHOOL IS:

“MOL AN ÓIGE IS TIOCFÁIDH SÍ”

This ethos is clearly evident to any visitor to the school, who immediately detects an environment in which pupils happily progress academically, religiously, culturally, physically, musically and technologically.

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MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL MR. JOHN BURNS M.ED.

Barefield National School has a distinguished history in the field of education for more than one hundred years. Since 1895, our school has been a progressive centre of innovation and excellence in learning and teaching.

After 5 major extensions which spanned 25 years, our new school was opened on the 29th May 2011. Our modern state of the art school facilities now include 16 class-rooms all equipped with interactive whiteboards and computers, a computer room, a very well equipped library, a halla, 6 support teaching rooms, multi sensory room, facilities for pupils with physical disabilities, medical facilities, 2 playing pitches, a basketball court and spacious yards. The provisions of such a wonderful learning environment for our pupils can, but only enhance the general education and development of all our pupils' individual skills and talents.

In these new facilities, our pupils receive a balanced holistic education, developing personally, academically and spiritually. With a dedicated staff, we make every effort to combine academic excellence with an outstanding range of sporting, musical, and extra curricular activities.

Our pupils achieve their potential in a caring and supportive environment. We foster a positive, open relationship between staff, parents and pupils. The best results in education are achieved when the home and the school are working in harmony. We welcome the interaction of you, our parents, your visits, your recommendations and suggestions at all times.

The transition to second level education is a major step for our pupils. We make every effort to ensure our pupils make as smooth a transition as possible. We delight in the successes and achievements of our past pupils and we follow their education and careers with great interest.

Our wish for all our pupils is that each one reaches his/her potential and has a happy, fulfilling school life in Barefield National School.

Is Mise
Le fíor-mheas,
Seán G.Ó Broin (Príomh-oide)

MISSION STATEMENT

THE ETHOS OF OUR SCHOOL IS: “MOL AN ÓIGE AGUS TIOCFADH SÍ”

- ★ Our school is a place where children are encouraged to grow and to develop in a supportive, positive and enjoyable atmosphere.
- ★ Our core aims are to provide a broad and comprehensive education, to recognise the needs and to develop the talents of each pupil.
- ★ We are a caring school. We strive to live up to Christian values and to show genuine concern for one another.
- ★ We appreciate individuality and difference.
- ★ We are committed to building a community, which respects the rights and uniqueness of each other.



OUR SCHOOL CHARTER

Every Child has a right to:

- ★ Feel safe from mocking, threats, verbal and physical abuse;
- ★ Be called by his or her own name;
- ★ Be themselves and to be treated equally regardless of appearance, race, colour, gender or religion;
- ★ Be included in school activities and have friends;
- ★ Have his or her beliefs and personal belongings respected;
- ★ A good education without prejudice in a clean and healthy environment;
- ★ Give expression to his or her own opinions and feelings;
- ★ Use and develop his or her own talents;
- ★ Be listened to;
- ★ Have his or her privacy, secrecy and confidences respected.

“AR SCATH A CHÉILE A MHAIREANN NA DAOINE”

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management structure of Barefield N. S. enables parents, teachers and Patron's representatives to join together as partners in promoting the success of the school in all its work and in its links with the wider local community.

The Board of Management of our school comprises of: -

2 Patron's Nominees;

2 Elected Parents or Guardians;

The School Principal;

1 Elected Teachers' Representative;

2 Members from the Community.

Names of Board of Management members are available at the school.



THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The staff of our school is fortunate to have a very active, co-operative and supportive Parents' Association. The involvement of the Parents' Association is reflected in the equipment that they have provided for the school. Included in this equipment are: a computer, photocopier, sports gear, musical instruments, band capes and audio equipment. In the past, they also subsidised the cost of the language tuition on an annual basis. Their generous contributions have enhanced every aspect of our school life in Barefield N. S.

The members of our Parents' Association contribute to the formulation of all school policy documents in their capacity as partners in education. If any new parents should wish to know more about the Parents' Association, they are encouraged to contact either the Chairperson or the Secretary, whose names can be obtained from the school.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The students' representative Council is a very important development in Barefield N.S. The Council is 'the voice' of the pupils and it gives them an opportunity to put forward their views and many issues that affect the school. It plays an important part in organising pupil activities within the school.

The members of the Council are elected each year by the pupils themselves. There are representatives from each class and meetings are held at regular intervals. The Council is an important medium of communication between the Board of Management, the school Principal, staff and pupils.



PRINCIPAL: John Burns

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Paddy Conroy

TEACHERS:

Mary O'Connell (Support Teacher)
Denis Liddy
Siobhán Enright (Support Teacher)
Rena McMahon
Aisling Daly
Patricia Kilcawley
Noel Lennon
Peadar McMahon
Patricia Keane
Gillian Moore (Support Teacher)
Robert Murray
Brid Baker
Kate Corrigan
Jim Chambers
Goretti Quinn
Ann Marie Vaughan (Support Teacher)
Sarah Eyres
Adrian Frawley
Mary O'Connor
Leo Duggan
Róisín Collins (Support Teacher)
Gillian Donnelly
Zelma Power
Sarah Bohannon (Support Teacher)

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS:

Colette Cusack
Regina O'Connell
Gloria Cleary
Vanessa Callinan
Claire Kelly
Mary O'Conghaile
Vivienne Lawless
Denise Mullane
Áine Breen
Anna Tracey
Stephanie O'Connor

SCHOOL SECRETARIES:

Bernadette McGloin
Miriam Brennan

CARETAKER:

Rony Machado Silva

THE CURRICULUM

The school curriculum is geared towards the overall development of our pupils and is based on the requirements of the Department of Education & Science for Primary Schools.

The weekly timetable includes the following subjects: -

Irish, English, Mathematics, Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (History, Geography, Science), Social Personal and Health Education, Religious Education, Arts Education (Visual arts, Music, Drama) and Physical Education.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In addition to the main curriculum, there are a number of extra curricular subjects and educational activities available to the pupils of Barefield N. S.

DRAMA:

All pupils in our school from the three-year olds in our “Over the Rainbow Playschool” to Rang VI are given the experience of stage acting, dramas and musicals. This culminates in our annual Spring Concert to which all parents are cordially invited. It is usually staged at an Glór Irish Music Centre in mid February.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGES:

Languages were introduced to our school in September 1988 in response to the closer links that Ireland has forged with Europe. Since our advent into the E. U. the knowledge of Irish and English is no longer adequate. The introduction of foreign languages at an early age is beneficial both educationally and culturally for our students.

FRENCH: Ms. Rachel Frawley teaches French to IV - VI classes. She is a native French speaker. Rachel gives the pupils a very good basic knowledge of the language. This knowledge makes the choice for pupils much easier when entering second level education.

GERMAN: Ms. Martina Merz teaches German to IV - VI classes. She is a native German speaker. Martina gives the pupils a very good basic knowledge of the language. This knowledge makes the choice for pupils much easier when entering second level education.

SPANISH: Ms. Elena Yanegas teaches Spanish to Junior Infants—III Class. She is a native Spanish speaker.



SPEECH & DRAMA:

Eileen Fitzgerald, after pursuing a career in accounting for a number of years, decided to return to her first love by opening a school of Speech and Drama in January 1992. She has studied with the Gabriel Wallace School of Speech and Drama since the age of eight. She gained her first associate Diploma with the Irish Board of Speech and Drama and her Licentiate with Trinity College, London.

Her classes cover a wide range of subjects including, verse speaking, drama, mime and movement, characterisation, improvisation, sight reading, public speaking, creative dance, Theatre groups, and speech exercises. Both solo and group work are explored in class, and the emphasis is learning through enjoyment. Students are prepared for Speech and Drama examination. Every April, the students have to dance and perform before an audience, during their annual Concert.

In addition to her class work, Eileen was appointed an Examiner with the Irish Board of Speech and Drama in 1996. She is the youngest examiner in Ireland and travels to a number of centres throughout the country to examine students. She has been involved with drama groups in Limerick and Clare, directing and acting in a number of productions.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MARCHING BAND:

There has been a long tradition of Marching Band in our school. The Marching Band under the careful direction of Goretti Quinn, learn marches and participate in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Fleadh Nua and many other events.

DEBATING SOCIETY:

Debating competitions have become a regular feature for Rang VI. Annually our Debating Competitions culminates in a grand finale on Graduation night with special guests adjudicating the event.

CHOIR:

There has always been a strong tradition of choral participation in Barefield N.S. Pupils from IV to VI standards take part in our choir, trained by Ms. Kate Corrigan. To date, they have many achievements to their credit. They have competed at All-Ireland level on many occasions and they have participated regularly in concerts and choral events.

IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC:

Barefield is synonymous with Traditional Irish Music and the students in our school have opportunities to learn tin-whistle at an early age. They progress to a wide range of instruments including fiddle, concertina, harp, flute, accordion, banjo, mandolin, pipes, piano, drums so that they can partake in céilí and group music. This musical training is undertaken through the medium of ear-training and learning by ear with immersion in the rich culture of Ireland. All pupils are encouraged to practise for solo and group playing.. Our Bands have attained All-Ireland success every year since 1997. Links have been made in the USA, Sweden and Bulgaria with students from these countries performing in Barefield over the past number of years.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORT:

Barefield School participates in a wide range of games including Gaelic football, hurling, basketball, soccer, tag-rugby, swimming, athletics and many more. Each child is encouraged to participate and enjoy a healthy and active time during their primary years.

The school has been successful in many competitions over the years winning County titles in football, hurling and basketball. We also succeeded in gaining the “Active School Award” for County Clare in 2008. Our school have had great success over the past few years in Gaelic football, with the boys winning the Division 1 title in 2015 and the girls winning the Girls Division 1 football title in 2011 with the boys also having a successful outing in taking home the Division 2 Cumann na mBunscol title at the same venue. Great scenes of celebration were witnessed throughout the school after these finals.

We have a dedicated staff who are committed to coaching our young girls and boys after school. We have close links with our local club St. Joseph’s Doora-Barefield and many of our past pupils have gone on to represent the “Parish” with great distinction.

Our school year ends with our Annual Sports Day which is enjoyed by pupils, past pupils and parents. Enjoyment is our number one objective.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GYMNASTICS:

Clare O'Sullivan provides Gymnastics classes in Barefield N.S. Each class attends a four-week gymnastics module during which time they learn skills to improve general fitness, flexibility, balance and co-ordination, while having fun and a break from the classroom. Sixth class pupils perform a gymnastics display at our Annual Graduation celebration.



SWIMMING:

Children of our school are very fortunate to be able to avail of the wonderful facilities at the Ennis Leisure Centre. Each class in the school experiences a four to six week module of swimming lessons, under the careful direction of the qualified Swimming Instructors at the pool. We also participate in local, provincial and national swimming galas.

BASKETBALL / VOLLEYBALL COURT

We have a full size outdoors Basketball Court and an internal Basketball Court. Pupils are taught skills pertaining to basketball and volleyball.

OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES

OVER THE RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL

Barefield N.S. is very fortunate to have an active and successful Playschool. Young children under the age of four years attend the playschool. It is of great benefit to both the children and the infant teacher when they start “real” school as they are already familiar with our school environment and have had the opportunity to mix with other children their own age. These children are lovingly cared for under the capable hands of Mary Collins and Frances Hahessy.



CHILD MINDING SERVICE

Breda Culligan provides an excellent child minding service operating from 8.15a.m. to 9.20 a.m. and in the afternoon from 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. For further details, please contact Breda at 087 6341151.



SCHOOL RULES

RESPECT:

Pupils should show respect and courtesy to their teachers and to one another at all times. They should always obey the instructions of their teachers.

PUNCTUALITY:

Pupils should be punctual for all their classes. If a pupil is absent or late, a written explanation is required from the parents to the respective teacher.

TIDINESS:

Pupils should pay attention to tidiness of desks, classrooms, halls and the schoolyard.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS:

A note from parents is required in cases where a pupil must leave during school hours. (Unless the pupil is collected at the door by a parent).

SCHOOL PROPERTY:

Pupils must respect school property. Accidental damage should be reported immediately by the pupil to the Principal.

EFFORT:

Pupils are expected to give of their best at all times, and to attend to their homework conscientiously. If pupils fail to complete any aspect of their homework, an explanatory note from a parent is necessary.

CONDUCT:

Pupils are required to conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner at all times in the school. An unruly, bad-mannered pupil who does not co-operate reflects discredit on his / her family and shall be subject to disciplinary action within the school. Individual teachers may consider it necessary to compile his / her own classroom rules. In such circumstances, such rules will be explained thoroughly to the pupils and the reasons for their existence.

UNIFORM:

School uniform is compulsory.



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Discipline is the means by which pupils are trained in orderliness, good conduct, and maximising their personal talents, all of which are essential to the well being of the school. Any pupil who fails to respond to normal school or class discipline and tends to be a disruptive influence on the class may have sanctions applied to him / her.

Where there is a serious breach of discipline, parents will be contacted immediately.

Parents are expected to take full responsibility for their children's behaviour.

A comprehensive Code of Behaviour Policy Document is presented to each family on enrolment and is also available in the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is compulsory. The details of same are outlined below. Most children wear the School Tracksuit which is available at Neylons, O.Connell Street, Ennis or Neylons, The Market, Ennis; Tel: (065) 6868267. However you have the option of the more formal uniform if you so require:

BOYS:

Grey Slacks (i.e. medium grey)

Light blue shirt

Navy V-neck jumper

Or Tracksuit

GIRLS:

Grey pinafore

Light blue blouse

Navy cardigan or jumper

Navy tights or knees socks

Or Tracksuit



SUCCESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The school has been awarded many achievements over the years, due to the great dedication and commitment of our staff and pupils, namely:

- ★ Creative Writing Awards
- ★ Television Appearances
- ★ Internet Awards
- ★ Science Awards
- ★ Green School Awards
- ★ Globe Trotting Ceilí Bands
- ★ Active Schools Award
- ★ Digital Schools Award
- ★ Sporting Successes



BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

- ★ Field Trips
- ★ Educational Outings

HEALTH

Medical, Dental and Optical Examinations are undertaken by the Mid-Western Health Board.

SCHOOL BOOKS

The school also undertakes the grant aiding of schoolbooks for necessitous children. A Book Rental Scheme is now in operation in our school.

OTHER FACILITIES/INFORMATION

LIBRARY

"The greatest gift we can give to a child is the gift of reading"

Our School enjoys the benefit of a wonderful new well stocked Library. We have also purchased the Accelerated Reader Programme which is a curriculum-based assessment tool that primarily determines whether or not a child has read and comprehends a book. A pupil who uses the programme selects a book from the more than 25,000 titles on the AR list. Each book is assigned a point value based on the number of words it contains and its reading difficulty. After reading, the student goes to the computer and takes a multiple-choice comprehension test on the book's content. Tests may have 5, 10, or 20 items, depending on the length and difficulty of the book. The computer scores the test, awards the students points based on the results and keeps a complete record. Passing the quiz is an indication that the student understood what was read.

Each classroom also has a well-stocked library containing reference and storybooks.

BOOK CLUBS

All newly published books are brought to the notice of our pupils through the school's membership of the following book clubs: -

- ★ Puffin Book Club
- ★ Setanta Book Club

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Each year, the school organises a Book Fair, which provides pupils of all reading abilities and of all ages an opportunity to purchase books, which are fictional and non-fictional.



OTHER FACILITIES/INFORMATION

ICT:

Computers play a prominent role in Barefield N. S. All pupils have every opportunity to become familiar with using computers. Our school is very fortunate to have a large Computer Room fully equipped with up-to-date computers and software.. On graduating from our school, our pupils are computer literate in computer software, programming and word processing.

Other audio-visual equipment includes Interactive whiteboards, which are installed in every classroom. These assist the teachers in imparting the curriculum in a stimulating and interesting manner.



HALL / GENERAL PURPOSE ROOM

Our halla is a marvellous facility enabling us to provide indoor activities for all our pupils, eg. Drama, Choir, P.E., Science, Dancing etc.. It is also used for after school activities by the local community.



SCHOOL POLICIES/SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

Our Parents' Association and Board of Management have approved the following Policy Documents:

- ★ School Code of Behaviour Policy
- ★ Relationship and Sexuality Education
- ★ Sexual Harassment
- ★ Complaints Procedure
- ★ Information and Communication Technology
- ★ School Safety Document
- ★ Procedure for Dealing with Allegations or Suspicions of Child Abuse
- ★ School Policy on Countering Bullying Behaviour
- ★ Policy on CCTV Systems & Data Management

These Policies are available from the school secretary.

I am pleased to advise that over the last two years all our school policies have been updated and approved by our Board of Management. A Table of Contents of these Policies can be accessed on our school website, www.barefieldns.com and are available at the school office, on request. Copies of Curricular Policies are also available, if so required. All parents receive our school Mandatory Policies on enrolment of your child/children.

Our school self-evaluation programme in Literacy, Numeracy and Science is ahead of target. Our Action Plan for these subject areas are also available on our website.

OTHER INFORMATION

INJURY TO STUDENTS

The School Authorities or any staff member cannot be held responsible for injury to any student caused by the student's own negligence or disregard of the school rules. A Personal Accident Insurance Scheme is available.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The School Authorities do not accept responsibility for theft, loss or damage to any article.

MEETING PARENTS

Parents are welcome to meet the Principal or any staff member by appointment.

SCHOOL HOURS

STARTING	9.20 a.m
SOS	10.55 a.m – 11.05 a.m
LÓN	12.30 p.m – 1.00 p.m
FINISH (Infants)	2.00 p.m.
FINISH (Other pupils)	3.00 p.m

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p>German (advanced) 8:30-9:15 Library Martina Merz (086) 7851399</p>	<p>German (beginners) 8:30-9:15 Library Martina Merz (086) 7851399</p>	<p>Spanish 8:30-9:15 Library Elena Yanegas (086) 6619135</p>	<p>Spanish 8:30-9:15 Library Elena Yanegas (086) 6619135</p>
	<p>Hurling & Football During School Time</p>	<p>Hurling & Football During School Time</p>	<p>Swimming & Gymnastics During School Time</p>	
<p>Arts & Crafts 14:00-15:00 Servery Clare Caroll (087) 2389521</p>	<p>Speech & Drama 14:00-17:00 Prefab 1 Eileen Fitzgerald (086) 8187549</p>	<p>Speech & Drama 14:00-17:00 Prefab 1 Eileen Fitzgerald (086) 8187549</p>	<p>Stretch & Grow 14:00-15:00 Halla Pirge Murray (086) 3519201</p>	<p>Irish Dancing 14:00-16:00 Prefab 1 / Halla Helen Greene (087) 6231106</p>
<p>Traditional Music 15:00-15:30 Community Ctr. Denis Liddy (087) 2229813</p>				
<p>Team Sports 15:00-16:00</p>				
<p>French 15:00-16:00 Room 9 Rachel Frawley (086) 0254476</p>		<p>Book Club 15:00-16:00 Library Róisín Collins</p>	<p>Choir 15:00-16:00 Halla Kate Corrigan</p>	<p>Chess 15:00-16:00 Prefab 1 John Cassidy (087) 2495913</p>
<p>Taekwando 18:00-19:00 Halla Brian Coughlan (086) 8035823</p>	<p>Taekwando 18:00-21:00 Halla Brian Coughlan (086) 8035823</p>			

TEAM SPORTS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF AFTER SCHOOL COACHING IN TEAM SPORTS :

Boys & Girls Football
Boys & Girls Basketball
Hurling, Camogie (Indoor & outdoor) & Handball
Tag Rugby, Soccer & Athletics

THE SCULPTORS

I dreamt I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, and the tools used
Were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was safe and sure,
While the parent laboured by the side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done
They were proud of what they wrought;
For the things they had moulded into a child
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.

