



# **Welcome to Scoil Phobail Bhéara**

## **Information Booklet for first year students.**

### **2020-2021**

#### **Telephone Numbers**

Office:	027 – 70177 or 70180
Attendance	ext. 1
Guidance Counsellor	ext. 2
Chaplain	ext. 3
Reception/main office	ext. 4
Deputy Principal	ext 5

Facebook	Scoil Phobail Bhéara
Website:	<a href="http://www.bearacs.ie">www.bearacs.ie</a>
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:info@bearacs.ie">info@bearacs.ie</a>
VShare	<a href="http://bearacs.vshare.ie">bearacs.vshare.ie</a>

(Please note this information booklet is updated each year and information may change from year to year).

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# Introduction

Scoil Phobail Bhéara opened in 1980 as a result of an amalgamation between Méan Scoil Naomh Iosaf run by the Mercy Sisters and Castletownbere Vocational School run by Co. Cork VEC. The school is situated in Castletownbere and provides a second level education for all students from ages 12-19 in the Beara Peninsula. The school has continued to grow over the past 38 years. It is a mixed ability school and staff use a variety of teaching methodologies to enhance learning and teaching. We recognise the importance of partnership between home and school and the need to encourage the student voice. We give every opportunity to each student to reach his or her full potential.

Scoil Phobail Bhéara is a Health Promoting School.

**Principal:** Ms.Pauline Hurley

**Deputy Principal:** Ms.Niamh O'Driscoll

Board of Management 2019-2021

Mr Ted Owens	Nominee of patron (Cork ETB)
Mr Patrick Gerard Murphy	Nominee of patron (Cork ETB)
Mrs Mary Hegarty	Nominee of patron (Cork ETB)
Fr Noel Spring	Nominee of Patron (Mercy Order)
Mrs Mary Lehane	Nominee of Patron (Mercy Order)
Mrs Clare O Sullivan	Nominee of Patron (Mercy Order)
Ms Noralene Ní Urdail	Elected parent nominee

Mrs Edel O Sullivan	Elected parent nominee
Ms Paula Duane	Elected teacher nominee
Mr Noel O'Sullivan	Elected teacher nominee

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

It is with delight that I write to our incoming students and welcome both you and your parents/guardians to the school community of Scoil Phobail Bhéara. It is my wish for you, that the next five or six years in Scoil Phobail Bhéara will be happy and fruitful for all of you. I hope your experience of your new school will enrich your lives and that as students you will develop as well rounded citizens, independent learners and resilient young adults. The staff will endeavour to do their best for you and we hope that you will also strive for the development of the best possible school experience for yourself.

Our school motto is:

**“Ní neart go cur le chéile” which translates “There is strength in Unity”**

Our school can only be at its best with parents/guardians, students, teachers, Board of Management and the local community all working together and as such it is vital that we all maintain a positive and collegial working relationship based on kindness and mutual respect.

**Information regarding Covid 19 will be forwarded to you before school opens. We will be following the regulations laid out in the government’s roadmap for reopening schools. This document can be found on gov.ie.**

I hope this information booklet will be a useful guide for you and that it will help to make the transition to Scoil Phobail Bhéara an informed and enjoyable one.

Kind regards,  
Pauline Hurley

Principal.

# Vision Statement

## *Our Vision Statement*

We in Scoil Phobail Bhéara have a vision of the type of school we would like. It is a school guided by Christian values where students are happy and where everyone is treated with courtesy and respect. Our school encourages, supports and challenges all students to reach their full potential.

While parents are the primary educators of their children, our staff members, who act in loco parentis, are our most valuable resource and every effort is made to ensure that we have a dedicated and committed staff and good student-staff relationships.

Our School is an integral part of our local community and in addition to providing the best possible education for our young people and preparing them for later life, our school serves as a resource for, and enriches our community.

We do everything possible to assist our students to take responsibility for themselves and their actions and we help them to appreciate and care for the world in which we live.

## *School Motto*

**Ní Neart go cur le Chéile / Strength in Unity**

**The power of a team pulling together, working for the same goal, striving to reach a common destination, is far greater than the sum of its parts.**

**Teachers, Parents, Students, Board of Management and Community, all striving for the same goal: provision of excellence.**

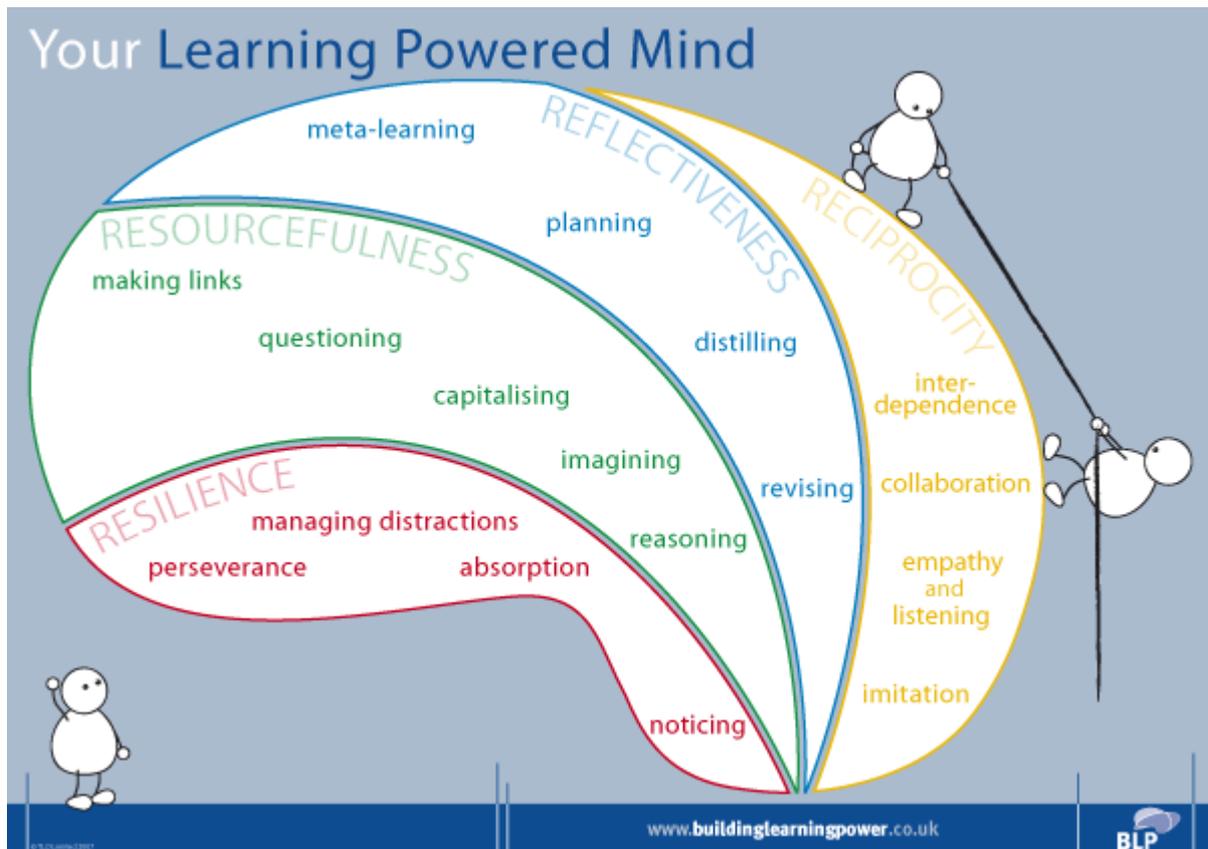


## Scoil Phobail Bhéara – Building Learning Power

As part of our School Self Evaluation Process we are engaged in Building Learning Power.

What is building learning power?

Building Learning Power is a way to enable all members of the school community to become resilient, resourceful, creative and confident learners.









## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PLAN 2020/2021

### Opening Schedule:

<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August:</b>	<b>All Staff</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>All staff</b>
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> year students &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> year mentors 08.50-12.00 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>All students 9.00-12.00 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Full school day</b>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Full school day</b>

Please Note: The February mid-term and Easter holidays may be shortened as a contingency arrangement for possible closure in lieu of days lost due to adverse weather. Ref circular letter 0016/2014 Department of Education and Skills

### **1<sup>st</sup> TERM**

Mid-Term Break:	26 <sup>th</sup> October to 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (inclusive)
Christmas Holidays:	Closing 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020

### **2<sup>nd</sup> TERM**

Opening:	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Mid-Term Break:	15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 (inclusive)
Bank Holiday	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Easter Holidays:	Closing 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **3<sup>rd</sup> TERM**

Opening:	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
May Bank Holiday:	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021
Summer Holidays:	Closing 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Junior & Leaving Cert beginning	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The main function of the school's code of conduct is to ensure the creation and maintenance of a school climate where effective learning and teaching can occur.

The code outlined below was agreed by the Board of Management, Parents' Association, Students' Council and Staff of the school. It is based on values such as the dignity of the individual, mutual respect, self-discipline, social responsibility and the right of all students to benefit from teaching and learning

### **THE CODE**

- a) Students are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to show due respect and courtesy to fellow pupils and school staff both in school and on school related activities.
- b) Students are expected to show due respect for school property and for the property of others.
- c) Students are expected to avoid involvement in any activity which might endanger the welfare of themselves or others.
- d) Students are expected to comply with instructions from staff in the matters of safety, conduct in class and school environs, movement about the school, class work and homework.
- e) Students are expected to follow the uniform code and to wear the uniform with pride.
- f) Students are expected to be punctual and to have full attendance.
- g) Parental (or Guardian's) consent is required if a pupil is to be excused from school.

## **Pastoral Care System**

The Pastoral Care System in Scoil Phobail Bhéara is based on our vision statement and our agreed code of conduct

### **Objectives**

1. That students are happy and safe.
2. That students feel they are cared for and valued.
3. That students achieve to their full potential.
4. That good student-staff relationships are characterized by mutual respect and courtesy
5. That parents/guardians are involved as much as possible in the education of their children
6. That the principles of natural justice are followed

## **Class Teacher and Year Teacher**

We are very conscious of the needs of students in Scoil Phobail Bhéara, consequently each class has a class teacher and each year group a year teacher. These teachers look after the pastoral needs of the students.

## **The School Journal**

The school journal is very important for communication between home and school.

- Students will be provided with a school journal. There is a section at the front for parents/guardians to sign.
- The school journal is to be respected. Students must have it on the desk during every class period and must give it to the teacher if requested.
- It must be used to record all homework.
- It remains the property of the school and must be handed up to a teacher on request. It may be kept in the student's file by the school.
- Parent/guardian should initial the school journal each night and sign it each week. (This applies to junior pupils only)
- Students must bring journals with them when meeting Class/Year teacher, Deputy Principal, Principal on a disciplinary matter and also to Parent/Teacher meetings.
- The school journal must be kept free of graffiti and in good condition. If the school journal is lost or not in good condition it must be replaced at a cost of €12. Students should arrange for a replacement of school journal with their class teacher only.

## **Leaving the School during the school day – Please see our attendance and punctuality policy on our school website for further details.**

This should not be done except in cases where there is an emergency. Please try to make all appointments outside of school hours where possible.

Should a student in **exceptional circumstances**, need to leave school during the school day, a parent/guardian must collect the student from school and sign him/her out at the main office. A note in the journal will not suffice. Please do not leave messages on the school phone regarding leaving school.

## Attendance

In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000, parents or guardians of students who are absent for 1 or more days are required to contact the school to explain the absence.

Please telephone 027 70177 extension 1 and give the reason for the absence and complete an absence note which is at the back of the student journal when student is returning to school. This note will be held in the student's file.

It is obligatory for schools to inform the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) if there is a concern regarding attendance.

## Daily procedures

1. Students are expected to attend school on all official school days. The school day starts at 8.45 a.m.
2. Students should be on time for class.
3. Students may not enter a room if their teacher is not present. They should line up quietly outside the room. If students are remaining in the room, the door should remain open until the arrival of the next teacher.
4. Students do not have permission to sit where they like; teachers will assign them seats.
5. Students may leave a room only when permission from a teacher has been obtained and a note is written in the journal.
6. Students may not leave the school building between classes or during morning break.
7. On no account should students leave school without permission.
8. Students must be responsible for their own property. It is not recommended to bring valuables to school.
9. School bags and personal belongings must be kept in an orderly fashion in the year area. Students should store their school bags in their year area at break and lunch-time.
10. **Mobile phones** must be switched off and kept in schoolbags or lockers during the school day. A mobile may be used only during lunch break. If a student breaches this rule the phone must be given to the teacher and handed in to the main office. Only a Parent/guardian may collect it from the main office. Recording by mobile phones is strictly prohibited. At the discretion of the teacher a mobile phone can be used for learning and teaching. Such usage is dealt with under the school's acceptable usage policy.
11. **Sexting**  
Sexting is the sharing of sexual text, video, and photographic content using mobile phones, apps, social networking and other internet technologies. The sharing of explicit text, images and /or video, is an unacceptable and absolutely prohibited behaviour and will have serious consequences and sanctions for those involved in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Please note the following regarding sharing of images:

- All incidents involving creating, storing, or sharing of explicit text, images and/or video of children under the age of 17 years will be reported as an incident to the Gardaí and Tusla and the State Claims Agency ( to the latter as there is the potential to cause injury/harm to the individual).
  - Sharing of explicit text, images and/or videos of pupils in the school will incur serious sanctions including suspension and up to expulsion as determined by the Board of Management.
12. Students are expected to treat their surroundings with respect and pride. Damage to school property will lead to disciplinary action and payment for repairs.
  13. Smoking is illegal in school. This includes the school grounds.
  14. Tippex is banned in school as it is an irritant and stains personal belongings and school property.
  15. Chewing gum is not allowed as it destroys carpets and desks.
  16. Full school uniform should be worn each day and when attending school events.
  17. School activities are privileges. Students whose behaviour is unacceptable will not be allowed represent the school.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

### **BOYS**

Mid grey pants

Plain white long or short sleeved shirt (no polo shirts)

Plain knitted crew necked (not V neck) navy jumper (not a navy sweatshirt)

Flat black shoes (no coloured strips or logos) Leather shoes preferable

School Jacket - available in Wisemans and Hanley's

Navy track suit pants for PE

### **GIRLS**

Mid-grey knee length A line skirt (no tube skirts)

(girls may also opt for uniform trousers as for boys)

Plain white long or short sleeved shirt

Plain knitted crew necked navy jumper (not V neck/not sweatshirt)

Navy tights or navy knee length socks

Flat black shoes (no coloured strips or logos) Leather shoes preferable

School Jacket - available in Wisemans and Hanley's

Navy track suit pants for PE

Hoodies, sweatshirts etc are not allowed to be worn. Please wear a school jacket.

### **Fabric**

Good quality Travera or equivalent for trousers/skirt

### **Badge**

Plain red badge: navy writing – Scoil Phobail Bhéara

**Ear-Rings:** Studs or sleepers in ear only – No other visible piercings are allowed (health and safety reasons)

### **Please Note**

**Non-compliance of school uniform will lead to disciplinary action. Parents are requested not to write notes excusing non-compliance of uniform. In the interest of fairness and equitability the uniform policy needs to apply to all and at all times.**



## Rainbows

- As part of our Pastoral Care programme, we are delighted to be in a position to offer young people who have experienced the death of a close relative, separation or other painful change in their family the opportunity to participate in the RAINBOWS Peer support Programme – which already takes place in over 500 schools and parishes throughout the country.
- When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. If a parent dies or parents separate or a painful loss occurs, not only do the parents grieve, the children do also. Grief is an expression of love and a normal human reaction to a significant loss. Children find it difficult to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age and inexperience. It may surface in their behaviour, schoolwork and emotional well-being.
- **RAINBOWS** is a support group that helps children put their *feelings into words*, work through their grief, build a stronger sense of *self-esteem*, and begin to *accept* what has taken place in the family. **RAINBOWS** is *not a counselling group*. It is a safe, confidential setting where children will share their grief associated feelings with each other and with trained facilitators.
- There are tragic losses that can cause extreme trauma. The Rainbows programme is **not** adequate in these circumstances. Professional help should be sought. If children are already attending professional counselling/family therapy etc. the professional's advice must be sought before application is made for attendance at Rainbows.
- If you feel that participation in this programme would be of benefit to your child we would appreciate it if you would discuss this with him or her prior to their application so that they understand what Rainbows is about. The Rainbows programme will commence in September and refreshments will be provided. Application forms are available from Mrs. M. Murphy Chaplain



## Mentoring Programme

This Programme involves Fifth Year and First Year Students.

- In line with the ethos of Scoil Phobail Bhéara, each student's personal, emotional, spiritual, social and academic development is a priority. The building of each student's self-esteem is of prime importance. The school aims to provide a safe and caring environment in which all students can function and receive the education they deserve in a comfortable environment. The school endeavours to allow each and every student have a positive experience of school.
- The transition between Primary and Post-Primary school can be an emotional and challenging time for many students. The mentoring programme plays a vital role in helping them to settle in successfully to their new environment.
- Senior pupils are invited to apply for the position of mentor. The interested students complete an application form and there may be an interview process if necessary. The students are then chosen and participate in a training day held in August. The trained mentors return to school on the same day as first year students, to help with the integration / induction process.
- The mentors meet their first year group as part of first year Orientation Day. They assist the Year Head and Class Teachers allocated to first years, and Chaplain with games to help them get to know each other, a fire drill and tours of the school on the first day.
- Fifth year pupils are allocated a small group of first years (approx. 5 pupils) to care for throughout the year. The first year pupils should feel comfortable with whichever group they are allocated. If any pupil is unhappy in their group, they can easily be changed.

The idea behind the mentoring programme is that first year students will have somebody else to confide in and may feel more comfortable with someone close to their own age group. Many of the first year students will already know some fifth year students and this may also help in preventing problems arising or in solving difficulties which may arise. It is another channel of communication for first year students in the first year in Scoil Phobail Bhéara.

- Fifth year students will deal with any minor difficulties and if any student has a serious difficulty the mentors will communicate with any of the Mentor Programme Team – Chaplain, Year Head of first years or with Principal, Deputy Principal, Class Teachers.
- Fifth year mentors will take their small break and lunch break with their group on the first day of term. The fifth years will then keep an eye on their first year students during break times for the first few weeks. There may be other meetings / events arranged so the groups get a chance to talk socially during the first term, e.g. a table quiz.
- The fifth year students will have received training in areas such as: friendship, bullying, boundaries, confidentiality and problem solving but will make contact immediately with Mentor Programme Team if a problem arises or if they are unsure about how to deal with any situation.

Subject	Classes		
English	5	5	4
Gaeilge	5	5	4
Maths	5	4	5
History	3	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
Science	3	3	4
French	3	3	4
Religion	2	2	2
PE (Short C)	2	2	2
SPHE (Short C)	2	2	1
CSPE	1	1	1
Wellbeing	1	1	1
Option 1	2	4	4
Option 2	2	4	4
Option 3	2	-	-
DML(I.T.)	1	-	-

## Homework and Study

Homework and study are important aspects of school life.

Homework whether written or oral, gives the student the opportunity to take ownership of work done in class. It also helps the teacher to assess if students have understood an idea or topic.

It is difficult to say how much time should be spent on homework or study. The quality of time spent is more important than quantity.

### Suggested minimum times

First year 1.5 hours per night, 5 nights per week

Second year 2 hours per night, 5 nights per week

Third year 2.5 hours per night, 6 times per week

Fifth year 3 hours per night, 6 times per week

Sixth year 3.5 hours per night, 6 times per week

### **How can parents help?**

- Provide a suitable room, desk, chair, heat and light.
- Ensure that the student is not disturbed while studying (including disturbance from mobile phones)
- Check the work is done and praise where possible.
- Attend all parent/teacher meetings and other school events in order to engage with your son/daughter's educational journey

### **Assessment in First Year** (Further information will be forwarded regarding assessment times)

**Students are assessed at Christmas & Summer & these reports will be made available to parents/guardians. Students may also be assessed during class time and this information will be communicated with parents/guardians through the school journal & or parent teacher meetings.**

Please note that all assessment reports are available online through our VShare system only.

- Christmas: formal supervised exam
- Summer formal supervised exam

Please note as part of the **New Junior Cycle** subjects will have different assessment models. You will receive further information regarding this.

### **Exam/Study Tips**



- Eating well, getting sleep and exercising are all important during exam times
- Revise well – make a study plan for your subjects and topics
- Make notes of the important points of each chapter

- Read your exam timetable to ensure you know when and where all your exams are to take place
- Make sure you have pens, pencil, ruler, calculator, etc. for the exams
- Students taking subjects such as T.G., Art, Business Studies, Wood etc. should ensure they have all necessary materials.
- Be on time for your exam
- Read the paper from start to finish, taking note of how many questions you have to answer and how many marks each of the questions are worth
- Divide your time so that you have enough time to answer all your questions
- Make notes on a rough work sheet of paper before answering a long question, make sure to hand up all rough work
- Re-read your answer paper before the end of the exam and make additions where you think necessary
- Answer extra questions if you have time left over
- You will be writing on the exam paper in most exams – however, answer books will be provided by the school if necessary or if you run out of space
- If you are not doing an exam and are studying in hall, please ensure you have textbooks to study for next exams

### ***Points of Information***

#### **Calculator**

See list of Stationery requirements posted to you.

#### **Book loan Scheme**

As you are aware the Parents' Association operate a book loan scheme. You will receive a notification regarding the date for the collection and distribution of the books for your son/daughter. The cost is 100 Euro per student.

#### **Student Activity Fund**

The Department of Education and Science provides the school with monies for day-to-day expenditure. However, it does not provide for the many extras that the school attempts to provide. The fee for 2020-2021 is **€80 per pupil** or **€120 per family**. This fee will be collected during September. This it is a very necessary fund for the variety of student activities and events that are offered. If you wish to pay in instalments please contact the school.

### **Insurance**

At the request of the Parents' Association, parents are offered the opportunity to choose to take out 24 hour insurance or school related activities insurance for their son/daughter. Each student will receive this form by post.

A – 24 hour cover - €9.50

B – School related activities- €7.00

A **school locker** is available at a cost of €20 euro (€10 euro is refunded on return of key)

### **Toilets**

There are designated toilet for first year boys and first year girls.

### **Morning break**

First years are allowed out for break 5 minutes earlier than other classes. It is envisaged that we may be taking staggered breaks due to health recommendations as per the government roadmap for reopening schools.

### **Lunch break**

First years remain in school during lunch break.

Activities at lunch time include basketball, football, athletics, table tennis, and Fóroige

### **Illness**

If a student becomes ill during the school day parents/guardians will be contacted by the school.

### **Contact between parents and students**

If you wish to contact your son/daughter during the school day please **do not** do so on his/her mobile (except during school lunch break) as this is a cause of disruption to school work.

If your son/daughter is ill and needs to be collected you will receive a call from the school.

### **Contact with staff**

Principal, deputy principal and staff should not be contacted at home with regards to school business.

If you wish to speak to a member of staff please make an appointment through the main office. 027 70177 ext 4. We will be happy to meet you.

## **Child Protection**

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of this overall child protection policy.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: Ms Pauline Hurley, Principal

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is; Ms.Niamh O'Driscoll, Deputy Principal.
4. In its policies, practices and activities, Scoil Phobail Bhéara will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements when dealing with child protection matters

## **A Sample of School events 2019/2020**

- Mobile Science workshop 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> yrs
- Whole school participation in National Dear Challenge (drop everything and read)
- Poetry competitions
- After school creative writing group.
- GAA coaching course and 1<sup>st</sup> yr Blitz
- Transition Year Students show

- Students consistently receive excellent results in State Examinations
- New specifications have been introduced in Junior cycle.
- Texting system for contacting parents continues to be very beneficial.
- The initiative to standardise calculators for use in first year continues.
- Mentor training for 5<sup>th</sup> yrs
- Gradam na Scoláirí (Student Awards)
- Trips organised to third level colleges, C.I.T., U.C.C., Lit, UL, Mary I, College of Commerce, St John's College, Coláiste Stiofán Naofa and Clonakilty Agriculture College and Careers Fair.
- Trip organised to the ploughing championship
- TY Students completed a C.P.R. course as well as work on Young Social Innovators. They also began sailing and set up mini companies.
- Leaving Cert students went on a field trip as part of their Geography course work
- A.G.M. of Parents' Association was held.
- Parent/Teacher meetings for all year groups.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year Art students visited art exhibition in Dublin
- LC biology and Agricultural Science classes went on an ecology field trip to Fota
- A representative from UCC plus spoke to Leaving Cert students and some parents
- Enrolment of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years
- Induction day for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years
- Pre-Junior and Pre-Leaving Cert exams
- Student Presidential election organised by a 2<sup>nd</sup> year CSPE class
- Students took part in the Poetry Aloud Competition
- All Transition year teams qualified for finals of Young Social Innovators
- Agriculture Science field trip
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Students participated in athletics, cross country running, basketball, football, and golf
- Transition Years visited Google, Croke Park and the Criminal Courts
- Wellness Week – a week of various activities and talks
- Accident Simulation demonstration
- RSE talks for different classes given by South West Counselling Services
- 

### **List of some recent successes**

- A group of 1st yr students took part in the JCSP Make a Book exhibition, raising awareness of the Syrian refugee crisis, and fundraised by holding a Bagathon to support Anne O'Rourke, a volunteer working with Syrian refugees in Turkey
- A number of students achieved a Bronze Gaisce award
- History award: Winner of the regional Irish heat of the Great Debate and highly commended at the final in London
- All 1<sup>st</sup> Yrs participated in the 'Volcano Challenge' as part of the Geography curriculum
- Award winner in West Cork Garda Youth Awards
- 3 students were awarded JP Mc Manus All Ireland Scholarships
- Winner of UCD entrance scholarship.
- Winner of UL scholarship

- 2 students won UCC entrance scholarships.
- Category winner Texaco Art
- Overall winner at the Trinity College Art competition
- Co-Action Annual Report Cover Art Competition
- Award winner in West Cork Garda Youth Awards
- A number of students achieved Gaisce Awards
- Finalists in several basketball competition
- Munster winner with Cork Vocational Schools
- Runner-up in County basketball final
- Gold, Silver and bronze medals in South Munster athletics
- Junior and Senior boys football, Senior girls football
- Regional winner :- 'Re-imagining 1916 in 2016' Art Competition
- Winner of Best Digital Bank in AIB Build a Bank Competition

### **School Self Evaluation (SSE) and Literacy and Numeracy National Strategy**

As part of the above initiatives the school has prioritised to focus on numeracy for 2014-2015. This will be continued in 2015 combined with a further initiative in the area of Teaching and Learning.

#### **2015-2016**

Our priority area for SSE was in the area of teaching and learning. Our numeracy initiative was also continued.

#### **2016-2017**

Our priority was in the area of literacy as well as continuing with numeracy and teaching and learning.

2016 - Review of learning across the school

<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Building learning habits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Persevering</li><li>- Being curious</li><li>- Working well with others</li><li>- Reflecting</li></ul>
2018-2019	Continuation of Building learning power
2019-2020	Numeracy across the curriculum
2019-2020	Digital Plan

## Staff

### Teaching Staff

Pauline Hurley	Principal History, English
Niamh O Driscoll	Deputy Principal Business, Religion, SPHE, Enterprise
Marie Carey	Religion, Geography, English, SPHE
Sarah Crushell	French, Italian
Kathleen Dwyer	Science, Biology, Chemistry, Ag. Science
Paula Duane	Science, Biology, Chemistry, Ag Science, Additional Educational Needs (AEN)
Margaret Harrington	Gaeilge, History
Margaret Keohane	Home Economics, AEN, Religion
Noralene Ní Urdail	Guidance Counsellor, Gaeilge, SPHE
Conor Moore	Maths, Digital Media Literacy, I.T.
Karen Croke	Art, Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
Antoinette O Callaghan	English, History, AEN
Susan O Connor	Gaeilge, French, CSPE
Mary Hanrahan	English, History, CSPE
Catriona Murphy	Gaeilge, English
John O Connor	Construction Studies, Material Tech. Wood, DCG
Anne O Driscoll	Home Economics, Religion, CSPE
Marie Murphy	Chaplain, Religion
Marion O Driscoll	English, CSPE, AEN
Jane O Sullivan	Maths, AEN
Noel O Sullivan	Metalwork, Digital Media Literacy, DCG
Alan Sheehy	Science, Physics
Dara Crowley	Metalwork, Digital Media Literacy, DCG
Niamh Ní Drisceoil	Maths, Gaeilge, AEN
Celia Landron	French, CSPE
Emma Sullivan	Geography, English
Ruairi Deane	PE, SPHE
Sean O Leary	PE, Irish, SPHE
Shane Galvin	Business, History, SPHE

Cassandra Cremin	Science, Biology, Chemistry, SPHE
Elaine De Barra	English, History
Aoife O Shea	Maths, Spanish

### **Secretarial Staff**

Margaret Power	Clerical Officer
Delia Murphy	
Denise Power	

### **Maintenance staff**

Michael Harrington	Caretaker
Catherine Harrington	
Carmel O'Shea	
Pauline Duggan	

### **Special Needs Assistants**

Gretta Harrington	Laurie Nolan	Kathleen McCarthy
Eileen O Sullivan	Dolores O'Shea	Sinead Hartnett
Teresa O'Sullivan	Mairead O'Connor	Lorraine O'Sullivan

## **Facilities**

Computer Room	Engineering/Technology Room
Technical Graphics/DCG Room	Art Room
Woodwork room	Construction room
English Room	Seomra Gaeilge
History Room	Geography Room
Prayer Room	French Room
Home Economics Room (2)	Maths Room
Science Room (2)	Sports Hall
Learning Support Rooms	Library/Study and office
Resource Programme Room	Prayer room
Guidance Room and Library	Canteen
Pitch	Basketball Court
Broadband available in all rooms	Bonovox Sound System installed
Study library	Business Room

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

## **Please note that activities change from year to year depending on availability of staff**

Debating	Public Speaking	Football
Drama	Poetry and Writing workshops	
Cross Country Running	Comórtas Gael Taca	
Competitions	Basketball	
Athletics	Gaisce	
School Bank	Educational Trips	
Maths, History and Irish quizzes	BT Young Scientist	

## **School Events**

Parent –Teacher Meetings for each year group  
Gradam na Scoláirí (Student Awards)  
Beginning and end of the Year Mass  
Information meeting for First Year Parents  
Leaving Cert Graduation, Transition Year Graduation  
Information evening on programmes, subjects etc.  
Reconciliation service  
Interview experience  
West Cork Music event  
Christmas concert

## **Support for Students**

Students Council	Mentors (5 <sup>th</sup> yrs)	Foróige
Care Team	Chaplain	Supervised Study
Guidance Counsellor	Study Skills	Rainbows

H.E.A.R.- Higher Education Access Route (in conjunction with third level colleges)  
D.A.R.E. – Disability Access Route to Education (in conjunction with third level colleges)

## **Support for Parents**

Parents Association and affiliated to PACCS (Parents Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools) and NPCpp ( National Parents Council post primary)

### Support for students in Scoil Phobail Bhéara



Guidance Counsellor	Chaplain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach informally on corridor, canteen, staffroom etc...</li> <li>• Approach directly and ask for an appointment for yourself or a friend.</li> <li>• Use the Cabhair to request an appointment for yourself or a friend.</li> <li>• Put note under the door.</li> <li>• Ask a staff member to make an appointment or for a referral.</li> <li>• Email a request to: N.Niurdail@bearcs.ie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach informally on corridor, canteen, staffroom etc...</li> <li>• Approach directly and ask for an appointment for yourself or a friend.</li> <li>• Call to the chaplains office - if the office door is open - if available I will see you then, otherwise you will be given an appointment for a later time.</li> <li>• Put note under the door.</li> <li>• Ask a staff member to make an appointment or for a referral.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email a request to: <a href="mailto:m.murphy@bearacs.ie">m.murphy@bearacs.ie</a></li> </ul>
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**Literacy and Numeracy for learning and Life** is a Department of Education and Skills National Strategy was launched in July 2011.

**Aim**

To improve literacy and numeracy among children and young people.

**6 Key Areas**

- Enabling **parents** and communities to support children’s literacy and numeracy development
- **Improving teachers’ and early childhood education** and care practitioners’ professional practice through changes to both **pre-service and in-service education**
- Building the capacity of **school leadership** to lead improvements in the teaching and assessment of literacy and numeracy in schools
- Getting the content of the **curriculum** for literacy and numeracy right at primary and post-primary levels by making sure that the curriculum is clear about what we expect students to learn at each stage
- Targeting available **additional resources** on learners with additional needs, including students from disadvantaged communities, students learning English as an additional language and students with special educational needs

**School Inspections:**

All school inspection reports can be found on the Department of Education and skills website  
Other websites that are useful are:

[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

[www.paccs.ie](http://www.paccs.ie)  
[www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie)  
[www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

## **Programmes on offer in Scoil Phobail Bhéara**

**(Programmes offered each year depend on resources, student choice and numbers.)**

Junior Cycle Profile of achievement (The new Junior Cycle)

Junior Cert Schools Programme (JCSP)

Transition Year (TY)

Leaving Cert

Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)

QQI Level 3

## **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement ( The new Junior Cycle)**

### **Curriculum Scoil Phobail Bhéara**

Circular 0015/2017 lays out the arrangements for the Framework for the New Junior Cycle.

It also obliges the school to present the 3 year curriculum plan to parents

All class periods will be 40 minutes

#### **1<sup>st</sup> years**

1<sup>st</sup> years in 2020 will study 9 subjects for the new junior cycle and two short courses.

**9 subjects will be as follows:** English, Irish, Maths, Science, French, History, Geography, and 2 option subjects

**2 short courses are:** PE and SPHE (Social, Political and Health Education)

**Wellbeing is also compulsory:** It includes PE, CSPE, (Civic, Social and Political Education) SPHE and Guidance.

Note that in 1<sup>st</sup> year, students will study three options and carry two options forward to 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

**Other areas of learning** will include Religion (non exam) and a wellbeing class. Religion will not be an exam subject.

Students will not be able to take extra subjects outside of school for school certification.

## **Wellbeing**

**Wellbeing is compulsory from 2017. 400 hours** may be provided over 3 years.

The main aim of wellbeing is human flourishing where students will be actively engaged and interested.

**There are 4 aspects to wellbeing:**

- Culture
- Relationships
- Curriculum
- Policy and Planning

## **Curriculum**

PE	2 periods per week	140 hours
SPHE	2 period per week	70 hours
CSPE	1 period per week	70 hours
Guidance		35 hours
Wellbeing	1 period per week	70 hours

## **PE Short Course 100 hours**

### **4 Strands**

#### **1. Physical activity for health and wellbeing**

- How to monitor and improve physical fitness
- Physical activity for all

#### **2. Games**

- Striking and fielding games
- Divided court games

#### **3. Individual team challenges**

- Orienteering and team challenges
- Athletics

#### 4. Dance or gymnastics

- Creating a sequence or movement
- Reflecting on performance

#### SPHE (Social, Physical and Health Education)

- Early adolescence can be a time of significant change for young people; socially, emotionally and physically.
- In 100 hours over Junior Cycle, the SPHE short course is a course that helps develop skills in management, communication, coping and relating to others.
- SPHE is in effect a wellbeing subject which is unified by 3 strands/pillars; **myself, myself and others & myself and the wider world.**
- Students will learn about fostering a realistic positive attitude, maintaining positive reciprocal relationships, coping with the ups and downs of life and the value of food and nutrition (experiential learning included through the new school polytunnel).
- Students will cover modules on various areas of health and wellbeing including RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) and bullying. These areas will be supported by the schools RSE and Anti Bullying Policies.
- Students will complete one CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) as part of the assessment process.

### Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)

The JCSP is a national programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Science and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. It is designed to help teachers develop a student centred approach to the Junior Certificate.

The JCSP follows the curriculum framework set out for the Junior Certificate and the goal of the programme is to ensure that students achieve success in the Junior Certificate examination. It attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable to their needs. On completion of the programme students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Science.

### Additional Educational Needs

The Learning Support Programme aims to ensure that all pupils achieve success in school. As every student is an individual with different educational needs, it is designed to allow them the opportunity to have extra support to meet these individual requirements. Learning Support classes are organised within the student's timetable. Students may be withdrawn in small groupings. The small groups allow for appropriate individual learning plans to be implemented providing for the specific support that each student requires.

## **Level 2 Learning Programmes**

For the first time in the history of education in Ireland there is a Junior Cycle pathway for students with particular special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs). They consist of five Priority Learning Units (PLUs) and will be recorded on a students' Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The priority areas of learning include:

- Living in a Community
- Preparing for Work
- Personal Care
- Communicating and Literacy
- Numeracy

As part of an L2LP students must also complete two short courses.

## **Resource programme**

Aims

- To provide a supportive educational environment
- To enable the students develop their potential and to participate as fully as possible in the curriculum, in school activities and in the wider community.

The basis of the programme is the assessment of the strengths and needs of each individual student. This is done in consultation with parents/guardians, psychologist, previous teachers and the student him/herself. Following assessment an individual timetable is drawn up. The range of subjects, degree of inclusion in mainstream and in-class support varies for the individual student.

The focus of the teaching is to develop the student's potential in literacy, numeracy, social and life skills and to encourage a wide range of interests.

QQI Level 3 will be introduced in 2020.

## **Financial planner:**

**We have listed the main expenses for you for 2020-2021. We have endeavoured to keep all costs at a minimum. Should you find yourself having difficulty meeting some costs please contact the school in order to set up payment by instalment.**

**Main Expenses:**

- Uniform Costs- shirt, jumper, trousers or skirt, jacket and shoes, navy tracksuit pants for PE
- Book Loan Scheme – 100 Euro
- Activities Fund- €80 per student or €120 per family
- Insurance Fee
- Materials/Equipment/Stationary

**List of materials/equipment for 1<sup>st</sup> years (see also letter that was forwarded to you)**

**English**

- 2 A4 Flexiback copy books

**Irish**

- 2 A11 copy books
- 1 A5 Flexiback copy book

**French**

- 1 A4 Flexiback copy book
- 1 A5 soft back copy book
- 1 pritt stick

**CSPE**

- 1 A4 softback copy book

**Home Economics**

- 1 A4 softback copy book
- 1 pritt stick

## **Art**

- €25 – letter was forwarded from the Art department.

## **Engineering**

- 1 A4 Flexiback copy book

## **Business Studies**

- 2 Flexiback copy books

## **Geography**

- 2 A4 Flexiback copy books
- Colouring pencils
- Science
- 1 A4 Flexiback copy book

## **Graphics**

- White rubber
- Metal topper
- ZH & AH Pencil
- Compass
- For home: T-Square, Protractor, Masking tape, 45 deg & 60 deg/30 deg set square

## **Woodwork**

- 1 A4 Flexiback copy book

## **Maths**

- 2 A4 Flexiback copy books
- Calculator required, Casio fx-83GT plus
- Mathematical set

## **History**

- 1 A4 Flexiback copy book

It would be beneficial if students could put plastic coverings on copy books if possible. (if they are available).

All students will be given a **school email** account. Please keep username and password in a secure location. This will be needed for any form of blended learning should it be necessary and it may also used to give and receive homework, give notes and revision.