

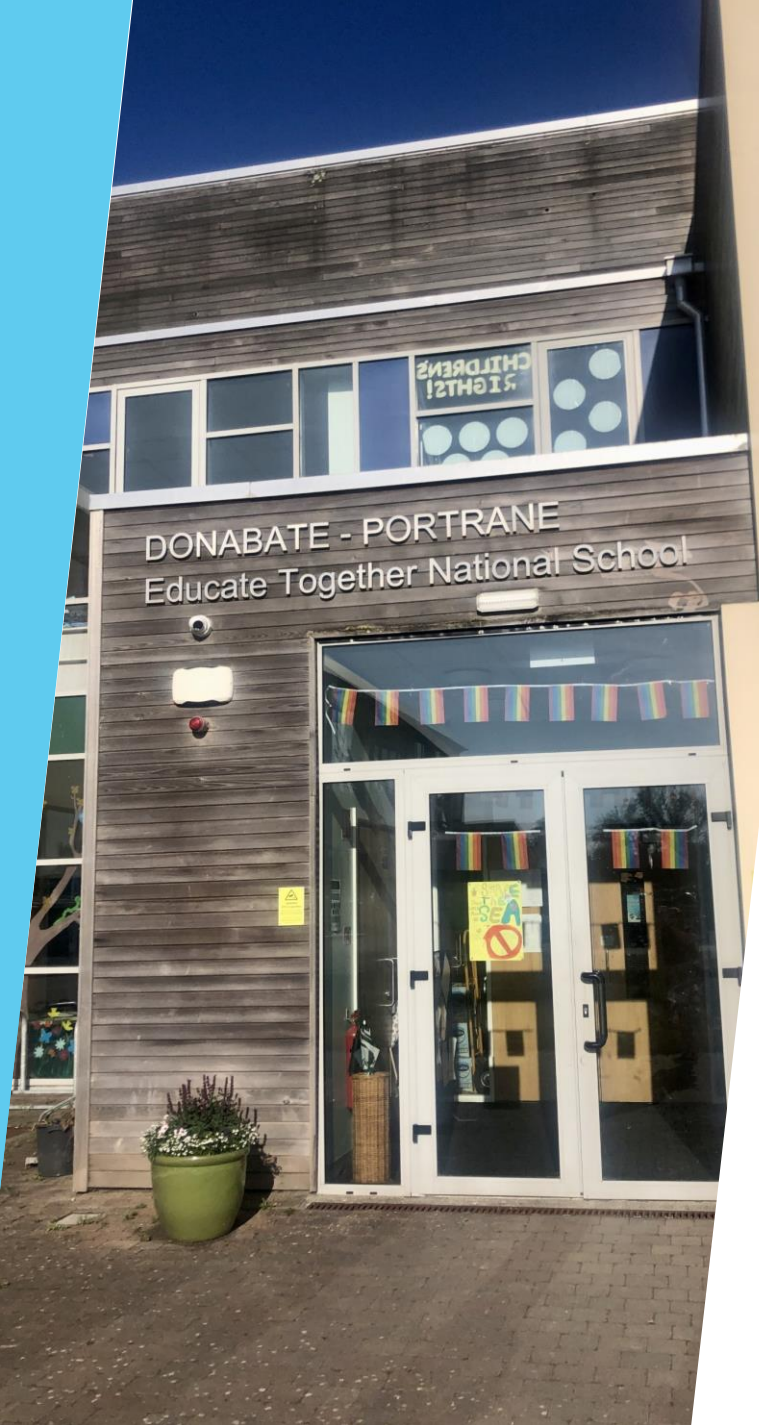
Junior Infants

2026 / 2027



Karen Mc, Sadhbh and Mary

Donabate Portrane Educate Together National School



Welcome!

- ▶ Welcome to all parents and guardians.
- ▶ Your child is finally ready to embark on their exciting journey into formal education.
- ▶ Today's presentation will inform you about what your child will learn in school, what to expect, and practical advice to help you support your child as best as you can with their transition to primary school.

Donabate Portrane Educate Together National School



- We have sixteen mainstream and two Autism Classes.
- Natalie and Laura work in our school office. Office hours are 8.30am-3.00pm Monday to Friday.
- Kieran and Luke are our caretakers.
- We are a child-centred, co-educational, equality based and democratic school.
- Our vision statement is '**No child is an outsider**'.
- We aim to provide a learning environment that encourages and promotes the holistic development of each and every child attending our school, allowing them to give of their best and be their best.

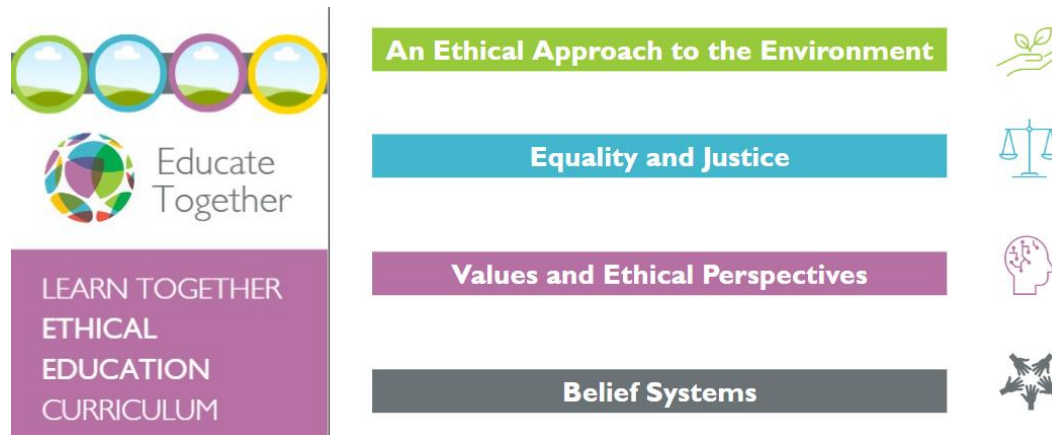
What are we proud of?

- Ethos - We work to develop the skills of empathy, leadership, creativity and teamwork in our students.
- Our inclusive classroom.
- Our students!
- We are a Green School.

Educate Together

Learn Together to Live Together

Learn Together- Our ethical education curriculum



Learn Together is a key component of the Educate Together model of education that is taught in our classrooms and lived out in our equality-based school environment.

The School Day

8.45 Line up in the yard

8.45 - 9.00 Reception time

9.00 - 10.00 Teaching / Learning Time

10.10 - 10.20 Yard for outdoor play

10.20 - 10.30 Snack

10.30 - 12.00 Teaching / Learning Time

12.00 - 12.25 Yard for outdoor play

12.25 - 12.35 Lunch

12.35 - 13.25 Teaching / Learning Time

13.25 Junior and Senior Infant home time

Inclusive Classrooms

- Support Teams
- Focus on inclusivity
- Communication regarding any concerns
- Junior Infant support
- Restorative Practice

Different learners, One School Community

Our Autism Classes

- 🌟 **Part of our inclusive school community**
- We currently have **two Autism Classes**, each with up to **6 pupils**.
- Classes are currently:
 - **Junior Class:** Infants – 2nd Class
 - **Senior Class:** 3rd – 6th Class
- The classes support **neurodivergent pupils with complex educational needs**.
- Pupils follow the **Primary School Curriculum**, with learning tailored to their individual strengths, interests and needs.
- Our aim is to support every child to learn, participate and thrive.

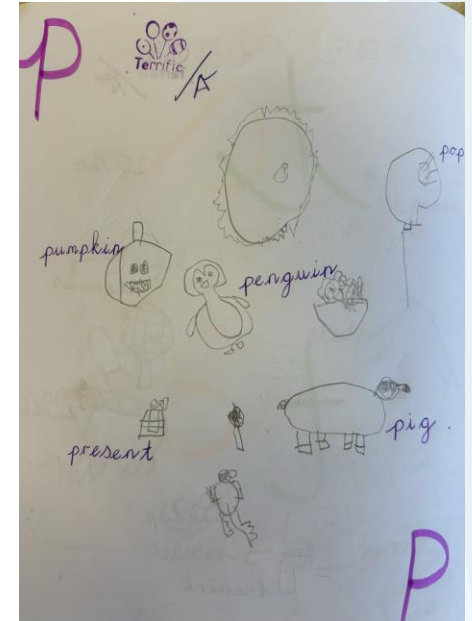
Every child is valued, included and supported to reach their potential

Inclusion is at the heart of school life

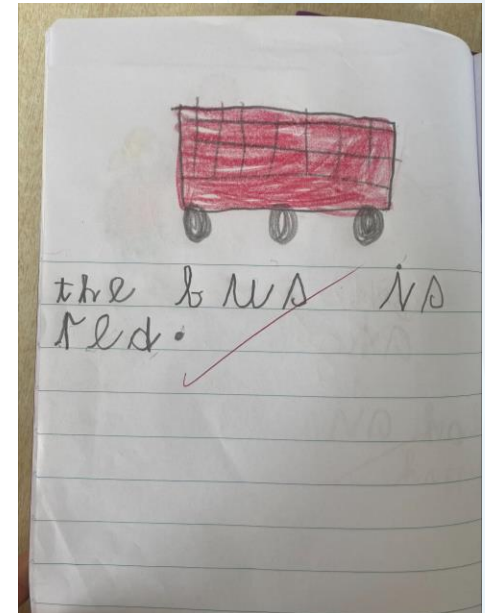
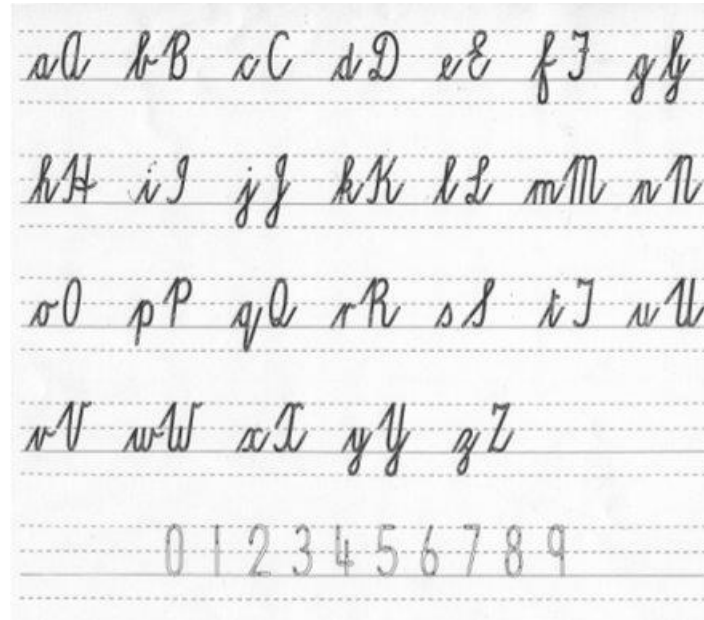
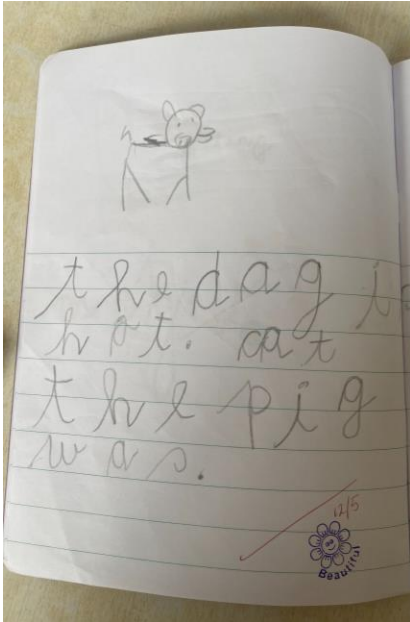
- Pupils in the Autism Classes are members of both their Autism Class and the wider school community.
- Children participate in mainstream classes, activities, school events, trips and celebrations where appropriate to their learning journey.
- We also provide opportunities for **reverse integration**, where children from mainstream classes visit and learn alongside pupils in the Autism Classes.
- These experiences foster:
 - Friendship
 - Understanding
 - Respect for differences
 - A sense of belonging

Literacy

- Children are taught to read using phonics.
- The children are taught the letter sounds. The focus is on the sounds the letters make and not the letter names.
- Using a multi-sensory approach
- When reading is introduced, it is taught using a 'blending' technique, where children are taught to 'blend' sounds together. For example, c-a-t, b-a-g.
- Words that cannot be sounded out (also known as 'heart words', such as 'the', 'my', 'he' and 'she'), are given to the children to learn by sight.



Cursive Writing



We use cursive handwriting in our school.

Encourage at home if possible.

Gaeilge

Based around ten themes which are visited and revisited each year in Primary School

(Sa Bhaile, Me Fein, An Scoil, Siopadoireacht, Ocaidi Speisialta, Caitheamh Aimsire, An Aimsir, Bia, Teilifís, Eadaí)

Visual and interactive learning based on the themes using a programme on the interactive board with games, songs, poems, vocabulary and short animated stories.

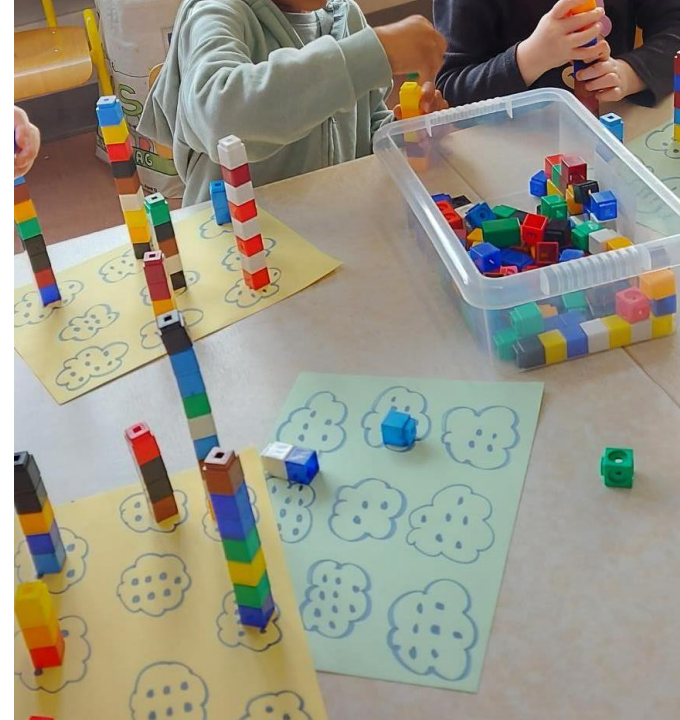


Maths

In Junior Infants, the children will learn to read, write and add with the numbers 0-5.

Other strands on the curriculum include:

- ▶ Shape and Space
- ▶ Measures (such as capacity, length and weight)
- ▶ Patterns
- ▶ Sorting Objects
- ▶ Numeracy Games (on interactive whiteboard)



Other Subjects

The other subjects in the curriculum include:

- ▶ History, Geography and STEM
- ▶ Visual Art
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ PE
- ▶ SPHE
- ▶ Learn Together
- ▶ Playful Learning



Playful Learning



The Importance of Play

- Play is a very important part of a child's development.
- It is how they make sense of the world around them and discover new things for themselves.
- Play is to be encouraged and supported!



- As Albert Einstein is supposed to have said, "Play is the highest form of research."
- www.ncca.ie/earlylearning

Settling In

- School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 1.25pm
- Reception time- 8.45-9.00am
- Don't overstay - slip away as soon as your child is settled.
- Home time- Children will be dismissed at the back of the school.
- Please let the school/teacher know via email if someone different is collecting your child. If it is a last minute change, please call the office.
- Seating places will be changed every few weeks to ensure the children get a chance to know everybody in the class.
- Responsibilities - table monitors/messengers/line leaders.

Starting Dates August 27th

Junior Infants – 9.30am – 12pm (only for first day) There will be a coffee morning for parents on this day in the hall.

8.45am – 12pm for Friday 28th August & week 31st Aug - 4th Sept)
(8.45am – 1.25pm from 7th September)

Gourmet Kids School Lunches

- Weekly online meal selection.
- Daily classroom delivery.
- Meals labelled with your child's name.
- Cater for 14 allergens and completely nut-free.
- Account setup information sent home on the first Friday.

GourmetKIDS
SCHOOL LUNCHES



We are the School Lunch Provider in your new School

As part of the Hot Meal Program your child will be entitled to receive a Free Hot Lunch in School every day



Meet our Head Chef Alex, he takes great pride in cooking all the delicious school lunches.

100% IRISH OWNED FAMILY BUSINESS

TASTY FOOD IS IN OUR DNA.

It's important to us that your child truly enjoys the Hot Lunch they receive in school.

We will do this by freshly producing wholesome nutritious balanced hot lunches in our Gourmet Kitchen HQ.

We use only the best quality ingredients & our Head chef Alex works very hard to make sure his recipes will meet the approval of all the kids we get to serve our hot lunches to.

Let us take away the hassle of making school lunches & instead you can relax with the knowledge & reassurance that your child is going to have a delicious hot lunch served to them in school each day.

How it works

- Each week you can select meals from our large menu on our order system.
- The meals will get delivered to your child, hot in their classroom each day.
- The meal will be labeled with your child's name on it.
- We cater for the 14 food allergens & we operate a completely NUT FREE facility
- Your child will receive a letter on the first Friday of school which will confirm when they will start receiving the lunches and how you can create your account

Learn more about Us & Our food from our website www.gourmetkids.ie

or follow us on Instagram @gourmetkids.ie



Please Remember

Starting Junior Infants



Putting on and taking off coat

Putting books in and taking out of bag



Opening and closing schoolbag



Opening and closing lunch box

Jack

Recognise their own name



Using toilet by themselves

Important things to remember!

- We are a nut free school
- Safe routes to school
- Communication



Thank You!

Junior Infants visits

www.dpetns.ie

Please review these slides at home before September and keep it somewhere for easy reference. It is a useful guide when there are things you are unsure of.

We're really looking forward to welcoming the new Junior Infants and we look forward to working with you!

Any questions?

Thank you!