

Know our School

Information for Students
and Parents



Open Evening
Wednesday 21st September 2016

Contents

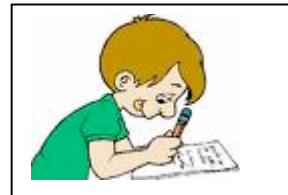
1. Why choose Pobalscoil Neasáin?	Page 3
2. Enrolment at Pobalscoil Neasáin	Page 4
3. School Facilities	Page 4
4. The School Day	Page 5
5. School Subjects	Page 6
6. Option Blocks	Page 7
7. Teachers and Management	Page 8



School Motto

‘Meas, Díograis, agus Dea-chroí’ is our school motto. These core values of respect, commitment and enthusiasm, and good heart are the core values that underpin our ethos here in PSN. They are at the centre of everything we do and are the values we hope that you and your child will experience in all of your dealings with us.

Why choose Pobalscoil Neasáin?



A caring environment: The school offers a supportive and caring environment for each and every student. Each year group is under the care of a **Year Head**, who stays with them for the six years that they are with us. The Year Head looks after the curricular and pastoral needs of the students, and gets to know the students very well. The Year Head for the First Years of September 2016 is Ms Patty Wade. **Class Tutors** work with each class group. We also have a **School Chaplain**, Celine Donohoe, who heads up the school's Pastoral Care programme and who is always available for one-to-one meetings with students.

Excellent academic achievement:

We are justifiably proud of our strong academic achievements at both Junior and Leaving Certificate level, across all ability levels. In 2016 our students again gained impressive top grades in all subject areas.



Broad curriculum: Pobalscoil Neasáin offers a broader range of subjects than may be available at other second-level schools. (See subject lists on page 5) Higher and Ordinary levels are offered across all subjects, at both Junior and Leaving Cert. First Year classes are mixed ability and, subsequently, core subjects are **banded** to facilitate mobility between subject levels when necessary.

Options and sampling: First Year students get the opportunity to sample the optional subjects before they choose the subjects they wish to study for Junior Cert. They then choose one subject from each Option Block. (See page 7) In Fifth Year students choose four subjects, one from each Option Block. Students indicate their preferred choices in Fourth Year and the option blocks are designed to best meet the needs of the student body.

N.B. - Enrolment at Pobalscoil Neasáin

Enrolment at PSN is done through the **Howth Deanery forms**.

- Forms are distributed to the children in 6th Class in their primary school. The forms are completed by parents and are collected again by the primary school.
- The Deanery forms are distributed in September and need to be returned by mid-October for applications for September of the following year.
- Parents will generally be contacted by the Post Primary school of their choice in the Deanery, by the end of November.
- An incoming Assessment test takes place on the same Saturday for all the Deanery schools.
- If your child's primary school is **not in the Howth Deanery** you can contact the school directly at **8062092** for an application form.

Facilities at Pobalscoil Neasáin.

The school building is bright, airy and modern and is fully wheelchair accessible.

We offer a continually expanding range of facilities for our students.

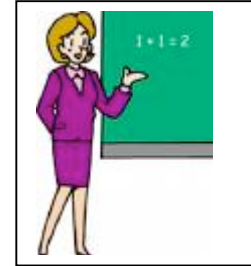
- Excellent I.T. facilities in the main computer room.
- A Technical Graphics room, fully equipped with the latest Computer Aided Design software.
- Subject-specific Science Laboratories for Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- PE Hall with fully equipped gym upstairs.
- Two Home Economics rooms.
- Woodwork room.
- Engineering and Metalwork room.
- Reading Room.
- Large, bright Art room.
- Stage and dressing rooms.
- Oratory and meditation area.



***We have a school bus from
Clare Hall & Donaghmede.***

The School Day at Pobalscoil Neasáin:

The school day in Pobalscoil Neasáin is very different to that in primary school. Each school day is made up of nine **forty-minute** classes. So, instead of having the same teacher all day, you may meet nine different teachers!



The school day begins at **8.50 a.m.** and there are three classes before a 10 minute break, at 10.50 a.m. Another three classes take you to lunchtime, at **1.00 p.m.** Afternoon classes begin at 1.55 and school finishes at **3.55 p.m.**

School finishes at 1:00 p.m. on a Wednesday - there are no classes held in the afternoon.

Students generally have one forty-minute class of English, Irish and Maths every day. History, Geography, Religion, CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) and SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) are generally done in single-period classes, spread throughout the week. Some other subjects, such as Science, PE and the practical subjects such as Art, often have double periods.

Many students choose to stay in school at lunchtime, and the **school canteen** provides hot food for those students who do not bring in a packed lunch. **Lunchtime clubs** are organised by the seniors for the younger students. These will typically include a computer club, a PS club, table-tennis and football.



School Subjects in Junior Cycle:

Pobalscoil Neasáin currently offers the following subjects in Junior Cycle:

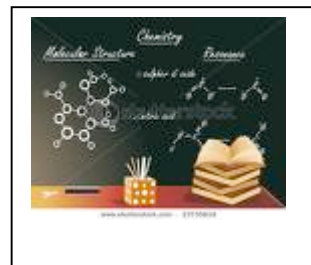
All students study **core subjects**, which are shaded in the table below.



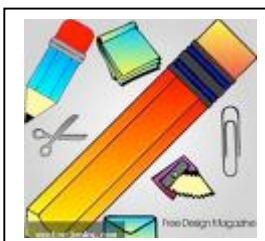
Gaeilge	CSPE	Home Economics
English	SPHE	Metal Technology
Maths	Religion	Wood Technology
History	Digital Literacy	Technical Graphics
Geography	Business Studies	Technology
Science	Spanish	Music
PE	French	

School Subjects in Senior Cycle:

All subjects offered at Junior Certificate level are also available in Senior Cycle, at all levels. Students can also take the LCA – the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme



Gaeilge	Physics	Business
English	French	Design & Communication Graphics
Maths	Spanish	Engineering
Religion	Music	Construction Studies
History	Art	Agricultural Science
Geography	Home Economics	PE
Biology	Accounting	Career Guidance
Chemistry	Economics	



Optional Subjects – Option Blocks

Each student studies a number of optional subjects in both Junior and Senior cycle.

In order to allow a range of subjects to be done within the timetable, and to maximise student choice, the subjects are offered in **Option Blocks**.

Students choose **one** subject from each block.



In **First Year** students get the opportunity to **sample** each subject during September and October. At the end of the sampling period they choose their preferred subjects. Not every student will be able to do all of their first choices, due to limits on class size but the option blocks generally do provide a good choice.

Below are the **Option Blocks for the present First Years.**

OPTION BLOCK 1	Wood Technology	Technical Graphics	Spanish	Technology	Art	French	Home Economics
OPTION BLOCK 2	Spanish	Art	Metal Technology	Home Economics	Home Economics	Wood technology	Music

In **Senior Cycle** students are surveyed, and then blocks are designed to best satisfy their subject preferences. The **Option Blocks** for our current Fifth Years are as follows:

OPTION BLOCK 1	French	Spanish	Geography	Construction Studies	Art
OPTION BLOCK 2	Engineering	Biology	Geography	Home Economics	Biology
OPTION BLOCK 3	Agricultural Science	Economics	Physics	Music	Geography
OPTION BLOCK 4	Design & Comm Graphics	Biology	History	Chemistry	

Teachers and Management:

The **Principal** of Pobalscoil Neasáin is **Mr Pat McKenna** and the **Deputy Principal** is **Ms Bríd Ní Annracháin**.



Each year group is assigned a **Year Head**, who will be their mentor for the duration of their time in PSN. **Ms B. Smyth will be Year Head to the First Years who will be joining us in September 2017.** Each individual class is also assigned a **tutor**, who is responsible for monitoring attendance.

• 1 st Yr Year Head: Ms P. Wade
• 2 nd Yr Year Head: Ms C. Bond
• 3 rd Yr Year Head: Bean Mhig Shamhráin
• 4 th Yr Year Head: Ms R. Scriney
• 5 th Yr Year Head: Mr G. Farragher
• 6 th Yr Year Head: Mr P. Seaver/Ms B. Smyth



Thank you for coming to see our school – we hope that you enjoyed your visit. If you have any further questions please contact us at **8063092** and we will do our best to help. Please visit our website – www.psn.ie – or follow us on Twitter @ PSNeasain.