



St. Nicholas' NS

Policy Extra-Curricular Activities

Policy Statement

The school has been and continues to be involved in extra-curricular activities with the support and help of the Parent's Association. The activities vary from time to time depending on the interest level of the children and their parents.

In some cases parents either help out with the activity or bring the children to an from the event.

In this context, St. Nicholas' NS considers that an important element in a comprehensive education is the provision of a wide range of Extra Curricular Activities (ECA), including sporting, artistic, musical and language activities

Policy Goals

Within the remit of regulatory and legislative developments in education, this ECA policy endeavours to:

- Ensure consistent approaches to the planning and implementation of ECA in the school.
- Provide the school community with a clear understanding of the role of ECA in the school.
- Enable pupils to take full advantage of ECA with a view to achieving a balanced and holistic education.
- Encourage parents to take an interest in and share responsibility for their children's overall development through support of the school's ECA.
- Provide teachers and other staff members with assurance and guidelines to help them with what is effectively voluntary work for the benefit of the pupils and the whole school community.

Policy Rationale

The school recognises that extra-curricular activities represent a valuable aspect of the learning process and contribute to the development of a rounded individual. ECA supplement and complement in-school learning and activities.

The primary school curriculum and extracurricular activities

The full Primary School Curriculum is available to all pupils at St. Nicholas' NS with due regard to pupil age, stage, ability level and resources available to the school.

From time to time, staff may offer extracurricular activities to pupils, which generally take place after school hours. From time to time however it is acknowledged that some of these activities may occur during the school day.

Costs

St.Nicholas' NS endeavours to provide such activities for pupils at a low cost, but it is acknowledged that some costs may need to be incurred by parents of pupils participating in extra-curricular activities eg to purchase sports equipment helmets, hurleys etc

Inclusion, choice, consent and participation

Whilst the general educational legislative obligations for participation in and receipt of the primary school curriculum apply to all pupils, no pupil is obliged to participate in extracurricular activities. St.Nicholas NS supports the principle of equality for all students regarding access to and participation in extracurricular activities. The school respects the diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in society.

In devising the extracurricular programme, teachers will decide on which class/age/group of pupils it is appropriate to offer an activity to. Eligible pupils will be invited to participate in such activities and parents will generally be asked to give their consent for their children to join an extra-curricular activity.

When pupils have been formed into an extracurricular group the extent of their participation in the activity will be determined by the norms, nature and where relevant the ethos of the extracurricular activity concerned.

Proposing ECA and ECA coordination

In the early stages of each term extra-curricular activities will be decided upon by staff members, circulated to parents, informing of the days, times and other organisational matters for the activity

Different extracurricular activities may run concurrently, on the same days or on different days. In such instances, pupils may be offered one activity rather than another. Places may be allocated on a first come first served basis or by the drawing of lots, or a combination of these methods. Place allocation arrangements will generally be communicated to pupils and or parents before places are allocated.

Parental Involvement and Consent

Permission slips will generally be circulated to eligible pupils requiring their parent/s to give consent for their child's participation in extracurricular activities. Without such consent, pupils will generally not be allowed to participate.

From time to time, parents may offer to provide an ECA, or to assist in its delivery. Following consultation with the principal and an agreement on appropriate organisational matters being reached, such an ECA will run in the normal way and the names of the parents running the ECA will be communicated to the parents of pupil participants. Parents may also from time to time offer to assist a teacher/staff member with the weekly running of an extracurricular activity.

Parents so involved are bound by the school's Child Protection Policy and will therefore require Garda Vetting in place

In general, parents may not come onto school grounds merely to observe an extracurricular activity.

Insurance

Normal school insurance policies apply to extracurricular activities.

Health and Safety

The same health and safety considerations as per the operation of the general school day apply to extracurricular activities.

Pupil Behaviour

The normal school Code of Behaviour and associated policies apply to all pupils participating in extracurricular activities. If deemed necessary by staff, some pupils may not be invited to participate in extracurricular activities. If a child engages in serious misbehaviour which could endanger themselves or other pupils' health and safety, such a child will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Child Protection

The St. Nicholas's Child Protection Policy and all its outlined procedures fully apply to all extracurricular activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management:

- To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated going forward.
- To approve the policy.
- To consider reports from the Principal/Deputy Principal on implementation of the policy
- To support and affirm teachers involved in ECA

Principal/Deputy Principal

- To put in place the structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy.
- To monitor policy implementation.
- To support and affirm teachers involved in ECA

Staff

- To implement the policy and provide feedback on its application.
- To keep records of ECA incidents and report these to the Principal/Deputy Principal.
- To ensure student awareness and acceptance of the policy.

Parents:

- To read, understand, accept and support the policy.
- To provide any relevant information requested by the school regarding their children and ECA.
- To encourage their children to participate in ECA.
- To support and affirm teachers involved in ECA

Pupils:

- To obey all instructions of supervisors of ECA.
- To always act in a safe manner when involved in ECA.
- To acknowledge the work being done through ECA on their behalf by being always respectful.
- To gain enjoyment and fulfilment from their involvement

The policy will be reviewed regularly in the light of experience.

Signed: Tanya Brown
2025 _____

Signed: Sept

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal

Date: Janet Bray
2025 _____

Date: _____ Sept

Examples of Extra – Curricular Activities

- Chess club
- Gaa football
- Gaa Hurling
- Music classes
- Art classes
- Soccer and/or other team sports
- Chess league and competitions
- Language classes after school
- Participation in inter schools church services in the diocese
- Inter schools quizzes
- Inter schools Christmas events
- Activities organised by the PA eg St. Patricks' Day parade, sponsored walk, Beetle drives
- Participation in Parish services