



∞ Introduction ∞

Scoil na mBuachaillí is a 22 teacher Boys' National School situated in the heart of Clonakilty with 237 pupils. The staff comprises of an administrative principal, 10 classroom teachers, 2 Special Class teachers, 5 Special Educational Needs teachers. We are also fortunate to share the services of another shared SEN teacher, 1 full time EAL teacher (English as an Additional Teacher) and 6 SNAs (Special Needs Assistants). We are also the base school for the Clonakilty Supply Panel with 3 teachers. We have a full-time secretary and a caretaker.



Scoil na mBuachaillí was formed when Clonakilty Boys' Senior School amalgamated with St. Joseph's Boys Infant School in September 1995. The schools which have a long and proud tradition in educating boys in the Clonakilty area, moved into their new building on O'Rahilly Street in March 2000. Since then the school has been extended on four occasions. Our new extension opened in September 2024 for our 2 classes for children with autism.

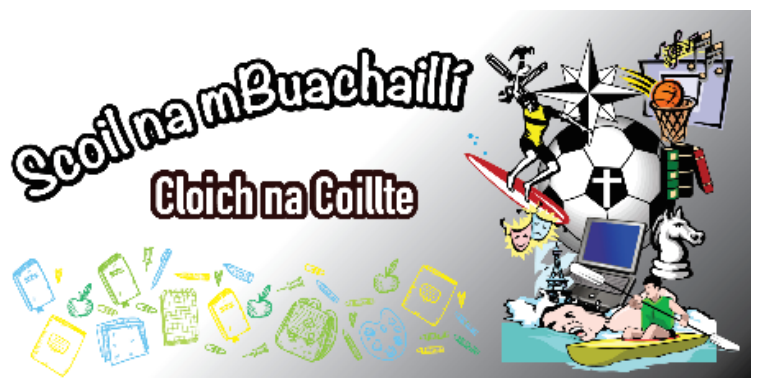
∞ Mission Statement ∞

Scoil na mBuachaillí is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Cork & Ross. We endeavour to make it a place where each pupil is encouraged to achieve its full potential – socially, personally and intellectually – in a happy, secure learning environment. Scoil na mBuachaillí promotes Irish language and culture, is caring-centred and recognises and celebrates diversity. The discipline in our school encourages and fosters respect and self-esteem among the pupils. We endeavour to develop supportive and open communication among pupils, teachers, parents, Board of Management and the community. We aim to have a staff that will continue to be committed, progressive and creative.

Our school boasts a range of up-to-date facilities. Our classrooms are bright, purpose-built classrooms which allow for the provision of a whole, well balanced, child-centred curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art interactive flat screens. Our classes also have access to class sets of iPads. Our Support Learning classrooms are equipped to accommodate all learning needs, whilst our new extension provides children with more complex needs a safe and learning environment.

Our school is under the leadership of a dedicated team of Principal Norma Harte and Deputy Principal Regina Fitzmaurice. We also are fortunate to have the support of the Assistant Principal team of Niamh MacAulay (AP1), Elaine Connolly, Orla O’Keeffe, Seán Daly & Karen O’Regan (AP2). Scoil na mBuachaillí has a committed and hard-working staff of 40 people.

Scoil na mBuachaillí is run by a Board of Management. The Board's main function is to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and to provide an appropriate education for each student at the school.



Scoil na mBuachaillí has a very active, committed and supportive Parents' Association. New members are always welcome.

Scoil na mBuachaillí has;

- ✓ A very committed, talented and hard-working staff.
- ✓ A friendly and supportive atmosphere.
- ✓ Teamwork: the staff plan and review together curricular and organisational areas regularly to ensure the highest standard of education for your child.
- ✓ Informal Open Door Policy: Parents are regularly kept informed on what is happening in the school. Our website is updated on a daily basis and relevant policy documents are sent to all the parents in the school e.g.



Code of Discipline, Anti - Bullying Policy, Homework Policy, Healthy Lunch Policy, Mission Statement, Safety Statement, Acceptable Use Policy, Substance Use Policy, RSE Policy, SPHE Policy, Child Safeguarding Statement, Administration of Medication, First Aid etc.

- ✓ A Positive and Consistent Attitude to Discipline as outlined in our Bí Cineálta Policy.
- ✓ High level of student involvement: e.g. refereeing matches, litter wardens, Road Safety Wardens, DIY, recycling etc.
- ✓ As well as learning new ideas and finding out new information in the different subjects of the curriculum, children develop important skills such as communicating, estimating, problem solving, working scientifically, designing and making. The curriculum specifies the amount of time to be allocated to each curriculum area. At each class level school work is appropriately differentiated by teachers as the need arises to accommodate all ability levels within the class.
- ✓ A wide range of extra-curricular activities - listed on the following pages.

∞ Access to School Grounds ∞

- ✓ The pupils are asked to enter via the school via the gate at the Clonakilty playground side or by the path by the side of the school via O’Rahilly Street gate.
- ✓ Our school can be accessed and exited from the path to the main door via the By-Pass Road. Parents/guardians are asked to not park in the staff carpark or allow the children to access the school via the staff carpark.
- ✓ The door on O’Rahilly St side is locked for your child’s safety.

∞ Chess ∞

Scoil na mBuachaillí has a very active and successful Chess Club which meets every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, from October to Easter for pupils in 4th – 6th class.



The yearly league is always very exciting. The Chess Club travels to neighbouring schools and to Cork City from time to time.

In 1998 we joined the Cork City Chess League and we were successful throughout the competition.

In 2018 a new Cork Competition was formed and we won both the Learner’s Section and the Player’s Section.

∞ Child Protection ∞

We are committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of the children in our school community. We strongly believe that children should learn in an environment that is supportive, caring, positive and safe. Our school's Child Safeguarding Statement is on display in the school. Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are reviewed annually by the Board of Management and are available on the school website www.snbclonakitly.com.

∞ Emergency Closing ∞

In the event of an emergency closing, parents/guardians will be informed by text and via the Aladdin app. Please ensure that all contact details for parents, guardians & minders are kept up to date. Emergency closures will also be posted on the school's social media so please follow us!



∞ GAA ∞

Training for the upcoming Sciath na Scol competitions start in the Autumn term each year. The overall aim of the competition is to involve as many children as possible in Gaelic Games; participation is its primary objective. £ teachers train for Sciath na Scol after school on Tuesdays. Scoil na mBuachaillí links in with Clonakilty GAA and Conan O'Donovan visits the school every Wednesday to coach the boys in hurling and football.



∞ Healthy Lunches ∞

We encourage a healthy packed lunch – a bread or an alternative, a savoury filling which provides protein, a suitable drink and some



fruit/or vegetables. We are proud participants in the Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme which aims to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. The Department of Health recommends that children (and adults) eat 5 - 7 portions of fruit and vegetables each day.

The aim of the programme is to encourage children to repeatedly try fruit and vegetables so that they can learn to like them. The programme depicts positive role models, the Food Dudes, in a series of video episodes and letters are read out in class that encourage children to eat fruit and vegetables. Stickers and small rewards are offered for participation in the programme. Thank You to Mrs Orla O’Keeffe for overseeing the programme.

∞ Home Issues ∞

If there is any issue at home, such as illness, separation or bereavement, it can be helpful to both the child and the teacher to have an awareness of the situation. Parental separation or family bereavement can be traumatic for the child if he/she is not supported. Any information is treated confidentially. Teachers can then support the child at school or link the family into suitable services. Teachers approach the issue with sensitivity and with a focus on the well-being of the children.

∞ ICT ∞

We have a Computer Room, stocked with modern laptops, Apple TV, visualiser etc. We were awarded the Digital Schools of Distinction Award - an acknowledgement of the work we do in Information Technology in our school. We also have Interactive Screens 72” in all our classrooms.

Home-School Communication is very important to us here in Scoil na mBuachaillí. The



mBuachaillí. The Aladdin app is one of the most comprehensive forms of communication.



We strongly encourage all parents to download the app as there is where you will receive

notices, attendance information, your child’s school report etc. Please ensure you have access to Aladdin. This is where you will inform the school of your child’s absence, late arrival, early leaving. It is your first point of contact with your child’s teacher. You can contact your child’s teacher directly to pass on information, request a call/meeting via Aladdin. Please note that this is subject to the Parent Staff Communication Policy. It also means that you can update your own contact information should there be any change.

∞ Music & Drama ∞

Music is a huge tradition in Scoil na mBuachaillí. The school has recently purchased a large set of percussion instruments with the support of the Parents' Association.

We have also purchased a 32-channel mixer, 12-channel mixer and an 8-channel mixer and P.A. system with microphones, stands etc and a smaller P.A. We purchased a 16 Track Studio to encourage the boys to write their own songs and record them.

Gerard Conlon visits the school every Monday and teaches the children brass instruments. Kay O'Flynn comes to the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to teach tin-whistle, guitar, accordion & keyboard to the children. Eoghan Barclay teaches drums to the boys every Wednesday. We also have a purpose-built Music Room which is now used throughout the week.

In 2014 we produced a Charity Christmas Single entitled "Home - The Clonakilty Christmas Song" which reached no. 48 in the Irish iTunes top 100!



We were invited to play live on the Patricia Messenger Radio Show on C103fm and on the strength of this we were then invited to support the West Cork Ukulele Orchestra in the Cork

Opera House. This was a marvellous experience for pupils and staff alike.

In 2015 Christmas our single "Butterfly Child" reached no. 32 in the Irish Charts and no. 1 in the World Music Category. We also performed on RTE television "Today Programme".

On Mr. Barth Harrington's retirement we celebrated music in SnB over the past 29 years in "Reeling in the Years".

The school puts on Christmas Concerts and School Shows annually. We participate in Feis Maitiú, a speech and drama festival in Cork. We recently celebrated an incredible occasion of 100 Voices in Emmet Square. We support the annual Clonakilty Guitar Festival and have the venue for the Acoustic Forum. At the Clonakilty International Guitar Festival in 2025, Scoil na mBuachaillí premiered an original song inspired by master guitar maker George Lowden, who attended the performance.

The song was created after Mr. Lowden gifted a handcrafted guitar to the school in 2024, recognising our pupils' passion for music. Led by Ms. Karen O'Regan, pupils and staff wrote and performed a heartfelt tribute to music, community, and creativity.



∞ Orienteering ∞

Scoil na mBuachaillí entered the Cork School's Primary Orienteering Competition for the first time in 1996 and won! The school then went on to win the All-Ireland Schools' Orienteering Competition. In 1998 we came second in the All-Ireland Finals and Jason Lynch (a 6th class pupil) was the All-Ireland Individual Champion. In 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 we won the All-Ireland Competition. The 2020 and 2021 competitions were not held due to Covid-19 restrictions. We returned to competition in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and again were successful in many competitions.

Orienteering is a very exciting sport, which teaches the children the mechanics of map reading in a very practical way. Children now have the opportunity to continue their interest in Orienteering when they go to Clonakilty Community College. Past pupils from our school represent Ireland at international competitions.

All-Ireland crowns for West Cork boys

Ailín Quinlan

Hats off to West Cork school-boys Mikey Alvarez and Darragh McDonald who have just been crowned All-Ireland orienteering champions.

The boys, and their teammates, walked away from the national competition with a string of glittering individual and team medals, underscoring their prowess in the sport.

Mikey (13), who trains every Sunday under the aegis of Bishopstown Orienteering Club, beat off stiff opposition from all over the country to be placed first at the recent All-Ireland Schools Orienteering Championships at the Waterford IT Sports Complex.

Not only did he win the top individual award, Mikey, a pupil at Scoil na mBuachaillí in Clonakilty was also a member of the school's formidable sixth class team which also took the first prize in the team event.

A fellow pupil at the school, Cormac Hall, also did his school proud coming second in the individual sixth class category.

"I usually go orienteering every Sunday with my dad — we go all over the county," Mikey explained.

"It's good fun and it makes you very independent because you have to make decisions for yourself."

"I was very happy to win



The victorious sixth-class team from Scoil na mBuachaillí, Clonakilty, who were crowned All Ireland Orienteering winners: from left, back: Tomás Ó Donnabháin, Michael Deegan, Blaise McCarthy, Dan Twomey, and Adam Crawford; front: Daniel O'Donovan, Jim Twomey, Fergal Murphy, Mikey Alvarez, and Oscar Kingston.

and my dad was amazed," said Mikey, a talented young runner.

Scoil na mBuachaillí's fifth class also took first prize in the team event in their category.

The class also put forward an All-Ireland winner in the form of 11-year-old Darragh McDonald, whose classmate

Jude McCarthy (10) came third in the event.

All the boys had steadily worked their way up to the All-Ireland event throughout the year, competing in a variety of different competitions at county and Munster level to become eligible to compete in the challenging national contest.

Scoil na mBuachaillí scored yet another first when fifth class pupil James Murnane came first in the recent Munster championships.

School vice-principal and sixth class teacher Regina Fitzmaurice said that staff, parents and fellow pupils were enormously proud of the school's promising young ath-



Regina Fitzmaurice (teacher and coach) with Mikey Alvarez (6th class All-Ireland individual winner) and Darragh McDonald (5th class All-Ireland individual winner).

letes: "Every year for many years, we've made it through to the All-Ireland but this has to be one of our best performances at an all-Ireland to date."

She said Mikey Alvarez was now both a Cork and a Munster Champion as well as being a national champion. "Essentially Mikey has won everything there is to win," she said.

All the boys were physically fit from playing a variety of sports, Ms Fitzmaurice said, adding that they trained on the school grounds at the start of each school year, as well as training informally in their

own time and participating in a variety of competitions with a view to honing their skills and overall fitness.

Meanwhile, in the classroom, pupils focused on map-reading skills.

"A lot of work is done in class on map reading and reading the keys on maps, so there's quite a lot of preparations involved across the year — the boys view a wide spectrum of orienteering maps," she said.

Ms Fitzmaurice said the young orienteers' achievements would be publicly honoured at a special prize-giving next month on June 27.

∞ Parental Involvement ∞

Parents have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. We welcome parents to participate in and make a valuable contribution to the school at every level, including:

- Going forward for election to the Board of Management
- Becoming a member of other committees e.g. Parents' Association
 - Fundraising
- Giving time to share a hobby, skill or interest during school hours in association with class teachers and the Principal



∞ PE ∞

Due to the fact that there is huge involvement in Physical activities in the school, we are very well resourced in this area.

We have installed state of the art running track (astroturf) around our football pitch. This will allow the children to run all year round, for fun or in preparation for the Cork City Sports.

∞ Rugby ∞

Clonakilty RFC is a wonderful club and we are proud supporters of the club. They provide tip rugby training to our pupils every year from September to Halloween. We take part in the inter-schools tip rugby fun day.



∞ School Day ∞

Although the gate is open before 9.00 am, this is done solely to avoid having the children in danger near the main road. Supervision in the school yard



begins at 8.50 am. The bell rings at 9.00 a.m.

Classes commence each day at 9.00 am sharp.

Classes end each day at-

1.40pm [Junior and Senior Infants]

2.40pm [1st- 6th]

Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school.

To meet insurance requirements, no pupil is allowed to remain on in school or school premises after 2.40pm, unless supervised by a teacher or for extra-curricular activities. Because of this we ask that all pupils are collected promptly after school.

In the case of children travelling by school bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school, or from the school to the bus. Parents who feel that their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make their own arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided. The school bus collects the children in the school grounds.

If your child has to leave the school during the school day you have to sign him out. This can be done on Aladdin.

On your child's return to school after an absence please explain his absence by the Aladdin Connect App.

Children will not be allowed to leave the school premises during the school day unless they bring a note with them or are accompanied by a parent. Please collect pupils from the school and sign them out on Aladdin.

∞ School Garden ∞

We have a wonderful Gardening Team led by Ms Regina Fitzmaurice. The Evening Echo newspaper interviewed the class for their gardening supplement. We purchased a glasshouse and have won many awards with Muintir na Tíre.



September 2024

∞ School Initiatives ∞

We are very proud to be part of;

- Green Schools
- Active School
- Junior Entrepreneur Project
- Amber Flag
- Curious Minds STEM Award
- Fís Film Awards



∞ School Website ∞

Our school website is a great way of keeping up to date with events and news in the school. Our school website is a great way to see what is happening school wide.



We, at Scoil na mBuachaillí, are delighted to welcome you to our website.

We hope our website offers you an insight into our vibrant school.

Here you will learn all of our latest news, information about our initiatives and celebrate our achievements with us.

Thank you for visiting.



∞ Sherpa Kids ∞

Sherpa Kids have a base in our school. Now parents have the option to have their children minded from 1.40pm - 6.00pm. in the school at a reasonable price. Information packs are available on request

info@sherpakids.ie +353 (0) 87 752 7229 sherpakids.ie

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∞ Soccer ∞



Soccer Leagues are organised for the children during the Lunch Time Breaks throughout the school year. Children from Senior Infants to Sixth Class participate in these leagues.

Local businesses sponsor trophies and medals for the competitions. The Senior boys are involved in organising and refereeing the games.

∞ Swimming ∞

Every year the children from 1st to 6th go to the local swimming pool for swimming lessons.

∞ Tusla ∞

The importance of a good education

As you know, a good education gives your child the best possible start in life. A good education helps young people to obtain secure employment and develop into mature and responsible citizens. The purpose of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 is to encourage regular school attendance and participation in education and training for as long as possible. It is desirable that every child stays in school and completes the Leaving Certificate.

Tusla (formally the National Educational Welfare Board)

Under the law, every child must attend school regularly up to sixteen years of age or complete at least three years education in a post primary school whichever comes later. The National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) was established to support school attendance and follow up on children who are not attending school regularly.

Our School Policy

As a parent, you must let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing (by Aladdin). The school will notify the National Educational Welfare Board if a child is absent for 20 days or more or where the absence gives rise to concern.

If your child is sick or is absent for other good reasons, no action will be taken by the Tusla. However, if there is concern about your child's attendance at school or about the reasons given, you may be visited by an Educational Welfare Officer who will discuss your child's education with you. The Officer will work with you and take full account of the circumstances of the child and the family before deciding what further action is necessary to ensure that the child receives his/her entitlement to an education. Every June in the Summer Report parents are notified about the attendance of their child during the year.

∞ Uniform ∞

The school uniform consists of a navy jumper, grey trousers, grey shirt and tie. This can be purchased in Cash's on Rossa Street.

Tracksuits are part of the school uniform for all classes and can be purchased in Tara's. It is School Policy that the school uniform is worn every day except on PE days, when the school tracksuit should be worn.



∞ Wardens ∞

A Junior Warden Scheme is in operation in the Senior Section of the school. All the wardens come from fifth and sixth classes. Each day at 2.40pm. the wardens stop the traffic and allow the children to cross the road in safety. The SEN teachers all share responsibility for the Warden Teams.



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ECHONEWS

Two primary school teams share the top prize in road safety competition

KNOW THE CODE: The pupils of Douglas Boys National School in action at the Junior School Wardens competition in Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

ON THE JOB: The pupils of Scoil Barra Ballincollig make the crossing safe for the pupils of St Patrick's Nation School Malloy. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

IN SAFE HANDS: The girls of Crosshaven National School who took part in the Junior School Wardens competition in Clonakilty. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

Junior school wardens do top-class job

STUDENTS at two primary schools shared the top honours in a competition designed to save lives by improving safety on the roads.

Scoil Mhuire Banríon in Mayfield and Carrigrohane National School outside Blackpool, were joint winners of the Cork City and County Junior Wardens competition, which took place in the west Cork town of Clonakilty.

Haring Hayes, road safety officer with Cork City Council, said: "The competition was very keen and the judges said the standard of the pupils taking part was very high."

The test of skills was run jointly by Cork City Council and Cork County Council.

"It relates to schools in the city and county who operate junior school warden schemes

By BRIAN WINDERS
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— that is where the pupils provide a safe crossing facility for other students at their school," explained Mr Hayes.

"The competition was organised by Cork County Council safety officer John Koenig," said Mr Hayes.

The other schools taking part were: St Mary's on the Hill, Knockakownee; Scoil Ríde NS, Crosshaven; Scoil Barra, Ballincollig; St Mary's NS, Dunmanway; Douglas Girls NS; Douglas Boys NS; Kilmurry NS, Lisarda; Courtlandra Boys NS; Shanahillymore NS, Ballydoyle; Castle townroche; Claghies/Kerry Pike NS, Kerry Pike; Clonakilty Boys NS; St Patrick's Boys NS, Malloy and Good; Scoil Thomas Davis, Malloy.

GETTING READY: Sarah Henchion of Kilmurry National School pulls her hat on for the Junior School Wardens competition in Clonakilty. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

CLASS ACT: The girls of Douglas Girls National School who took part in the competition. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

TOP CLASS: The pupils of Douglas Boys National School put their heads together to come up with a top plan of the junior warden contest. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

BIG DAY: Shano Fitzgerald of Scoil Barra Ballincollig keeps an eye on the competition in Clonakilty. Picture: Gerald McCarthy

Junior School Warden Competition comes to Scoil na mBuachailí