



19/08/2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We extend a warm welcome to all students and staff who will be returning to our school community in the coming days. We are particularly aware of our incoming first year students and those transferring to Scoil Dara from other schools, we look forward to supporting your journey as you adapt and grow in understanding and familiarity.

The coming academic year invites us all to develop further our positive learning habits, setting achievable and motivating goals with regard our studies, to engage with others in an empathic and inclusive manner and to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead with hope and courage.

We congratulate our graduating class of 2022 who overcame the significant challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic as they progressed toward their Leaving Cert and Junior Cycle accreditation. We wish them the very best in their progression toward their chosen further education courses, working roles and to the promise life-long learning, personal growth and positive citizenship. We urge our current 6th year students to place great value in each step of their journey toward graduation – working with their teachers, their peers and indeed positively motivating themselves to engage with all learning opportunities to the best of their ability.

Daily Tutor Assembly at 9 am

Our focus on supporting student progress through a holistic pastoral system has led to the timetabling of tutor assemblies at 9am, Monday to Friday. Meeting with the tutor and tutor group each morning will promote student organisation and preparation for learning while nurturing the network of supporting relationships at the core of our school community. We ask parents/guardians to encourage students to be on time and prepared for school each day optimising student capacity for positive and wholehearted engagement. Students arriving late to school should present a note of explanation at Reception. Where a note is not presented students are required to attend morning detention from 8.15am on the following morning.

Medical/Dental and other Appointments

We request that medical and dental appointments are made outside of school hours while understanding that this may not always be possible. On occasions where a student is being collected from school to attend an appointment, parents/guardians should email the relevant year head in advance detailing the appointment date and time of collection:

Year Group	Year Head	Email Address
First Year	Ms. I. Dalgarno	isobeldalgarno@scoildara.ie
Second Year	Ms. T. Tighe	thersatighe@scoildara.ie
Third Year	Ms. P. Keane	patriciakeane@scoildara.ie
Transition Year	Mr. E. Ryan	eamonryan@scoildara.ie
Fifth Year	Ms. C. Finley	caronfinlay@scoildara.ie
Sixth Year	Mr. J. Rattigan	jimrattigan@scoildara.ie

Agreed Uniform Policy

The Scoil Dara uniform is a traditional emblem of inclusion in the community of our school. The sense of community it evokes creates a consciousness of the values our school celebrates and advocates along with a pride in the unique culture and ethos of Scoil Dara. Our expectation for adherence to the uniform code reflects our shared values and creates a positive atmosphere for and focus on learning/working together. We take this opportunity to highlight some key terms of our uniform code:

- Students should present to school in full, complete and neat uniform each day
- The official Scoil Dara school Jacket is the only jacket students are permitted to wear to, from, within the school grounds and on any and all school trips and outings.
- False/Artificial nails (gel, wraps, acrylic, press-on etc.) are prohibited in school
- Facial piercings (of any kind) are not permitted
- Excessive make-up/fake-tan/false eye-lashes are not permitted to be worn

The table below details the agreed PE uniform for all year groups -

Year Group(s)	PE Uniform
1 st & 2 nd Year students	New Scoil Dara PE top, white polo top, black track suit bottoms
3 rd Year students	Grey sweatshirt/hoodie, white polo top, black track suit bottoms
TY, 5 th & 6 th Year students	Dark coloured sweatshirt/hoodie and black track suit bottoms
<i>*Scoil Dara PE top can be ordered through Grants www.grantsclothing.ie</i>	

Mobile Phone Policy

While fully aware of the learning applications and supports technology affords our students, our agreed mobile phone policy requires the personal management of and responsibility for personal mobile devices. Students are not permitted to access or use mobile devices during the school day, unless under the supervision of a member of staff for a clearly defined research/learning purpose during an in-class activity. At all other times mobile devices should be switched off and stored securely in a locker/school bag. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the device. Confiscated devices can only be collected by a parent/guardian on Friday afternoons. The school accepts no liability for lost or damaged devices.

Stewardship of our Shared Environment

Students have responded positively to the guidelines regarding the disposal of food waste and wrappers and this sense of collective responsibility is having a very a positive impact of our school environment. All wrappers, peelings, etc. should be placed in a small plastic bag and brought home for disposal. Students are encouraged to utilise re-usable drinking containers only (re-usable plastic/ stainless steel bottles). Students have a shared responsibility for their base classrooms and are required to keep their workspace and classrooms clean and tidy.

VS Ware - Parent/Guardian Access

Our student record system – VS ware – supports Parent/Guardian access to important information and record regarding student attendance, punctuality, attainment, on-going assessment, term and CBA reports as well as information regarding behaviour and learning progress. It is imperative that parents/guardians engage with VS ware on a routine basis throughout the school week.

Student Services Charge

Our student services charge is set at €95 per student for the academic year 2022-23. This charge allows us to provide our students with a range of services which without the support of parents and guardians we would simply not be able to provide. These services all play a valuable role in supporting our students to achieve their potential during their time in Scoil Dara. The services provided include:

· Scoil Dara Student Journal	· ICT Services and Maintenance	· SMS Messaging
· Extra- and co- curricular events and activities (school subsidised)	· Bus and student transfer subsidy	· Locker maintenance, rental and combination locks
· Photocopying	· Correspondence and postage	· House exams and assessments
· Library services	· Parents Association	· VSware
· Microsoft/Teams licences	· Student induction booklet	

Community Activities and Events

Throughout the coming academic year we encourage students to become involved with community initiatives and events. Within Scoil Dara we have a wide variety of extra and co- curricular activities which we encourage all students to avail of. Engagement and inclusion in these activities provides opportunities for fun and friendship and greatly enhances the development of relationships and key skills which will in turn support student progress and learning.

We look forward to the coming academic year, working with you in the support of your sons and daughters. Our Pillar values of Community, Respect, Wisdom and Growth guide our awareness that, in our engagements with others, in the opportunities for learning offered us, in our progress toward our goals and aspirations, in our honest reflections about choices we make, we are nurturing the richness of our human character.

Sincerely,

David Mc Cormack

Principal