

Information for Parents/Guardians of Incoming First Year Students



We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new cohort of First Year students to Loreto Secondary School, Bray.

We want all of our students to enjoy their time with us, and we work hard to ensure that the Mary Ward values of Truth, Sincerity, Freedom, Justice and Joy are upheld in our school community.

This document is for Parents and Guardians of our incoming First Years, and will hopefully answer many of the common questions that you might have. It is designed as a companion to the Student booklet and other information on the dedicated information page for Incoming First Year Students that you can access via our school website.

Booklists and policies, including our Uniform Policy and Code of Behaviour are posted on the website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing info@loretobray.com if you have any other queries or concerns.

As we await government guidance, we have not finalised our calendar for 2020-21 but we hope to welcome our new First Year students at some point in the week beginning Monday 24th August., and will be in touch as soon as possible with definite dates.

What does the School Day look like in Loreto Bray?

Classes begin each morning at 8.45am sharp, and students are expected to be set up and ready for class. All of our class periods are 40 minutes. School finishes at 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 1pm on Wednesday,

We have a short break from 11.25am until 11.40am, and lunchtime is from 1pm until 1.45pm.

What if my daughter is late to school?

If your daughter comes to school during the first period of the morning, she should report to Ms Ryan's office, who will sign her in for school records, and in your daughter's journal.

Generally, if your daughter is more than 40 minutes late, she should report to the main office where the same procedure will be followed.

What if my daughter has an appointment during school time?

While we encourage that every effort be made to avoid disrupting school attendance, we understand that sometimes there is no way to avoid it while attending appointments etc. There is a special section at the back of the journal, which is cream in colour, with detachable notes for parents/guardians to explain a late arrival or early departure. When arriving to or departing from school, your daughter presents this note to the Main Office or to Ms Ryan, so it can be kept on file, and your daughter will be signed in or out of school as appropriate.

What if my daughter feels sick when she is in school?

If your daughter feels sick, she should let her teacher know, or speak to any member of staff if she is not in class, and go to the Main Office.

If your daughter is too unwell to stay in school, the school will contact you to come and collect her and sign her out.

What if my daughter forgets something?

Under normal circumstances, if your daughter forgets materials for class, Home Ec ingredients, lunch etc, and you are in a position to deliver it, you can do so at the Main Office, and we will include the message in morning announcements.

You can also send her a message that it has been left for her to collect, as students are allowed to use their mobiles at break and lunchtime.

However, this arrangement may be revised as per guidance regarding COVID-19, and we will advise of any changes to arrangements prior to school reopening.

How does the locker system work in Loreto Bray?

A locker is assigned to every student, and in First Year, those lockers are in the students' base classrooms.

There is a cost of €10 per locker, which is included in the Academic Expenses each year, to pay for maintenance and upkeep of lockers. Each student provides their own lock. Often, a sturdy combination lock is the best option, as it negates any problems regarding forgotten keys etc.

Using colour coding and zipped bags to hold all of the materials for each subject is helpful for the students to stay organised, both in the locker and preparing for class and homework.

Are there extra-curricular activities on offer in Loreto Bray?

We have a wide variety of clubs and societies on offer in Loreto Bray. We would encourage all of our students to get involved, and joining in with these activities can really help our students to settle into secondary school, and to mix socially with students outside of their class and year groups.

These activities take place at lunchtimes and after school, and there really is something for everyone. Early in the year, we will have information about an extra-curricular timetable and we hope that parents and guardians will reinforce the message about the importance of being involved in all aspects of our school community.

A sample of the activities on offer in 2019-20 included: Rugby, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Athletics, Gaelic Football, Student Council, Environmental Club, STEM Club, Choir, Orchestra, Debating, Film Club, Games Club, Sign Language Club, History and Politics Society, Gender Equality Movement, Peace and Justice Society and Stranger Things Club.

We look forward to welcoming your daughters and yourselves to our school community.



What happens when my daughter has PE?

In secondary school, students wear their normal school uniform to school everyday, and change into PE gear immediately prior to PE class or matches in the Sports Hall changing rooms. They also change back into uniform after PE and sport. They do not wear their tracksuit to school on PE day.